

West Indies captain Chris Gayle celebrates his hundred on the fourth day of the second Test against Australia at the Adelaide Oval yesterday. He was unbeaten on 155.

Ashfaq fires

FROM PAGE 17
Mohamed Imran got a hand on his shot.

Afghanistan went for the breather with a lead.

After resumption, Maldives reorganised to step up the attacks and the pressure paid off after eight minutes when Ahmed Thoriq, who stuck the lone goal against Nepal, equalised the margin with a close-range tap when a Fazeel header off a Nasser corner came in his way.

Afterwards, it was a show for Maldives captain Ashfaq, who struck twice inside nine minutes to make the result safe and keep their hopes of qualifying for the semifinals alive.

Ashfaq, the best player of the last edition, did not hesitate to give his side the lead in the 70th minute as the playmaker easily drove the ball past Afghan goalkeeper Hamidullah Yousufzai from handshaking distance.

With one minute to go, Ashfaq was played a low ball from the midfield and he shrugged off his marker to advance into the danger zone before lashing a left-footer that flew past the goalkeeper in the 89th minute.

TEAMS

MALDIVES: Mohamed Imran, Mohamed Saifan (Ali Assad), Umair Mohamed, Ibrahim Sobah Mohamed, Jameel Mahmed, Gasim Shamweel, Naseer Mukhtar, Fazeel Ibrahim, Ashfaq Ali and Ahmed Thoriq (Arif Mohamed).

AFGHANISTAN: Hamidullah Yousufzai, Zohib Islam, Hafizullah Gadam, Hashmattullah Barkezai, Moaddar Gazizada (Ali Azara), Israfeel Kohistani, Saboor Khalili, Zakria Reza (Faisal Sakhezada), Ali Ahmed Yarzada, Masood Hashemi, Syed Bashir Azimi (Wahid Nadeem).

Referee: Shrestha Gyanu (Nepal)

Telegraph

FROM PAGE 17
Majumder, Siam drew with Aradhya Sekhar Bagchi, Tisha beat Anubhab Banerjee, Protiva beat Pathikreet Choudhury and Tani lost against Rahul Mukhi.

I want to help Eng, says Gooch

INTERNET, undated

Graham Gooch has issued the simplest of mission statements in his new role as England batting coach -- to help his country "win cricket matches".

The former England captain will be with the tourists initially until the end of this month's first Test against South Africa in Centurion. Gooch, England's all-time highest Test runscore, has been recruited to assist his fellow ex-Essex batsman and national head coach Andy Flower.

"It's a great honour to be asked to come and help the England team, to help with anything to do with English cricket," said the 56-year-old, who was last formally involved with the national squad management at the start of this century.

"For a lot of us involved in the domestic game, all we're interested in is supporting the England team and producing players for that England set-up.

Gayle strengthens

FROM PAGE 17

Doug Bollinger, who kicked the turf in disgust when Asad Rauf turned down a strong appeal. The action led to Bollinger being reported by the match referee Chris Broad.

It was that sort of day for Australia, frustration upon frustration, as they felt decisions went against them and their spinners failed to have the same impact Bann had enjoyed on the third day. There was turn and bounce for both slow men and one Hauritz delivery that ripped back viciously to Bravo suggested that Bann will be a handful on Tuesday.

Peter Siddle was clearly not at full fitness due to hamstring tightness and bowled only eight overs, while Bollinger, Johnson and Shane Watson battled hard with little success for most of the day. Watson delivered a searing, swinging yorker that clipped the leg stump of Nash (24), after

Bollinger trapped Shivnarine Chanderpaul directly in front for 27.

Ramnaresh Sarwan fell for 7 when he sent a leg-side catch to Haddin off Johnson and Barath (17) was unfortunate to be run out at the non-striker's end when Gayle's straight drive was adjudged to have touched the bowler Hauritz before crashing into the stumps. It was the only thing Gayle did wrong all day.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the fourth day of the second Test between Australia and West Indies at the Adelaide Oval on Monday:

WEST INDIES: First innings 451 (Gayle 26, Sarwan 28, Chanderpaul 62, Nash 92, Bravo 104, Sammy 44, Rampaul 40 not out; Bollinger 2-67, Johnson 3-105, Hauritz 2-111, Watson 2-57)
AUSTRALIA: First innings 439 (Watson 96, Katich 80, Ponting

36, Hussey 41, Clarke 71, Haddin 55 not out; Roach 3-93, Bann 5-155)

WEST INDIES: Second innings (overnight 23 for no loss)

	Gayle not out	Barath run out	Sarwan c Haddin b Johnson	Chanderpaul lbw b Bollinger	Nash b Watson	Bravo c Hauritz b Johnson	Ramdin b Johnson	Sammy c Ponting b Bollinger	Benn c Siddle b Johnson	Rampaul not out
	155	17	7	27	24	22	0	10	5	0
Extras:	(b-8, lb-2, w-1, nb-6)	17								
Total:	(For 8 wks in 93 overs)	284								
To bat:	Roach									
Fall of wickets:	1-45, 2-61, 3-133, 4-194, 5-251, 6-251, 7-277, 8-284.									

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Johnson	19	1	85	4
Bollinger	14	3	36	2
Hauritz	27	4	68	0
Siddle	8	2	28	0
North	14	2	42	0
Watson	11	5	15	1

'New' BNP to revolve

FROM PAGE 1

central executive committee are likely to be recast, bringing in a number of new faces, mostly young leaders who were with the party during the state of emergency.

This apart, the post of senior joint secretary general may be incorporated into the party constitution.

Tarique had been the senior secretary general till he went abroad for treatment last year. Introduced in 2005, the post could not be included in the charter, as there was no council during the period.

Besides 2,512 councillors, 12,000 delegates and 2,600 guests including political leaders and eminent citizens are expected to converge at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre for the council.

The standing committee has already approved Khaleda's speech, which will touch on political developments in the last three years, government's performance and future role of BNP.

In her address, the chairperson will call on the BNP leaders and workers to unite in efforts to strengthen the party, which was routed by arch-rival Awami League in the last general election.

Standing committee member RA Gani yesterday told The Daily Star that they have completed all preparations and the party is now set for the "historic national council" that will present the nation a "new BNP".

Khaleda, also former prime minister, will inaugurate the daylong programme through hoisting national and party flags at 10:00am.

Tarique, who is now in London, may address the councillors through a videoconference, party leaders said.

The council venue was all ready and waiting. Decked out with flags and streamers, it was swarming with party faithful yesterday evening.

Khaleda Zia has visited the venue twice.

Most of the councillors and delegates were already in the capital. They were busy discussing among themselves the potential changes that may come to the committees.

"This council will show that we have won against the conspiracies hatched throughout last three years," Rafiqul Islam, a delegate from Chandpur district, told The Daily Star.

He also observed that those who had betrayed the organisation during its troubled time should not be allowed to get back to the fold.

During the caretaker government rule, BNP almost split into two factions. At the begin-

ning of the year, it took up a countrywide programme to shore up the struggling organisation.

The reorganisation efforts began on February 3 through holding view-exchange meetings between central- and grass-roots-level leaders and ended on November 30 with one-third of the task left unfinished.

On June 9, the party announced names of conveners and a few joint conveners after dissolving 71 out of 75 district committees to prepare for the councils.

Forty-eight organisational districts have elected leaderships through councils. Most of the rest could not hold councils because of internal conflict.

Conveners and joint conveners of the districts where councils could not be held will attend today's event as councillors.

The existing party charter however provides for only presidents and general secretaries to be considered councillors.

A significant number of young leaders close to Tarique would be rewarded while some others whose performance affected the party badly will be ousted from the committee.

The leaders who took the side of party's expelled leader Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan during the emergency rule will also be left out as the field level leaders are mounting pressure to reconstitute the committee with dedicated leaders only.

Talking to The Daily Star, many senior leaders predicted that Tarique, who was arrested on corruption charges and later obtained bail during the last caretaker government rule, would be reinstated as the party's senior vice chairman.

They, however, said the full-fledged committee would be announced after the council followed by Khaleda's visit to her son in London.

Meanwhile, the party's all-level leadership has taken an all out effort to restore Tarique Rahman's image as he was censured for corruption allegation during the BNP-led four-party alliance. Even Hawa Bhaban, the then office of BNP chairperson, was also criticised as the alternative powerhouse during that time.

Previously, Tarique announced "quitting politics" just before leaving for London on July 11, 2008, the day of his mother's release from sub-jail.

The national council will also approve the provisional changes brought earlier in the party constitution to meet the Election Commission's (EC) registration criteria and make the constitution more demo-

cratic.

The party has decided to bring some major changes including extending the tenure of the chairperson, creating the post of senior vice chairman and increasing the number of posts in the executive committees.

Accordingly the party is going to increase the tenure of its chairperson to three years from two years.

The BNP policymakers brought the changes to consolidate the power of the chairperson considering the problems arose in running the party during the caretaker rule.

Taking advantage of a provision in the party constitution that said the standing committee will sit at least once a month, a faction of BNP leaders led by late Saifur Rahman on October 29, 2007 convened a meeting of the standing committee and decided to appoint Saifur and Maj (ret'd) Hafizuddin Ahmed as acting chairperson and acting secretary general respectively.

This set of leaders was later recognised as reformist faction.

Keeping this in mind, the party has decided to include a new provision that says the chairperson will convene the standing committee meeting whenever s/he wants but it must be held once in every three months.

Asked about the possible amendments in the constitution, Lt Gen (ret'd) Mahbubur Rahman, a member of the standing committee, yesterday said they would make the amendments so that the constitution can fulfil the requirements set by the EC.

The BNP has invited leaders of different political parties including Prime Minister and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina, leaders of business and professional bodies, intellectuals, cultural personalities, envoys of different countries assigned in Bangladesh and elite of the city to its council.

SECRETARY GENERAL
The BNP chairperson will face a tremendous challenge in picking a secretary general for her party, as a group of leaders want to reappoint Khandaker Delwar Hossain while another faction is strongly backing Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain.

Names of former minister Tariqul Islam and party's joint secretary general Nazrul Islam Khan are also in discussion.

Party insiders, however, said the chairperson might appoint a fresh leader whose image is not questionable to people. Former state minister Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir becomes a probable candidate for the post on this ground, they added.

Pak proposal to India for ODI series

AFP, Lahore

Pakistan's cricket chief on Monday proposed a limited-over series against rivals India at neutral venues to overcome huge financial losses due to security problems in the country.

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Ijaz Butt said annual losses of 71 per cent were incurred on television rights and other areas as teams refused to tour the country over security fears amid a Taliban insurgency.

"We have been incurring 71 per cent annual losses due to relocation and cancellation of cricket series in the country, and a limited over series against India can help us overcome these losses," Butt told a press conference.

He said Pakistan had suffered a total loss of 125 million dollars since teams began refusing to tour the country in 2008.

"We lost some 40 million dollars due to the cancellation of the India series last year and this huge loss can only be covered if we play India, even on neutral venues," said Butt.

New Delhi refused to clear a tour of their cricket team to Pakistan scheduled for earlier this year after the militant attacks on Mumbai in November 2008, which Indian authorities blamed on a Pakistan-based extremist group.

Bangladesh

FROM PAGE 17

Captain Aminul Haq also echoed the same sentiment and sees nothing to put Sri Lanka ahead of Bangladesh.

"No doubt they are a good side with two successive victories, but I don't think they are better than us. They work hard on the field and their midfield and forward line is better compared to their defence and we will certainly keep these things in mind," said Aminul.

Bangladesh may be missing the services of their star striker Zahid Hasan Emily who sustained a muscle injury during the match against Pakistan.

Coach Shantoo hinted that Mithun Chowdhury or Abdul Baten Komol might join striker Enamul Haq if Emily is ruled out for the game.

Shantoo's counterpart Sri Lanka coach Sampath Perera is upbeat having already confirmed the semifinals and he is determined to emerge group champions with all win records.

"Bangladesh and Sri Lanka are equal in terms of strength and we will play to win against Bangladesh," said Perera, whose side are in good mood after thumping Bhutan 6-0.

Perera said that he might bring two to three changes against Bangladesh intending to rest a few of the players before the semifinal clash.

The Sri Lanka coach was a bit worried though about the home crowd and believes that Bangladesh are ahead of Sri Lanka only in terms of home advantage.

For record's sake, Bangladesh have won eight out of 10 matches they played against Sri Lanka, who, however, beat Bangladesh in their last two meetings.

Henin's triumphant return

Tennis

AFP, Charleroi

Belgium's former world number one Justine Henin began her return to tennis after an 18-month absence with victory over Italy's Flavia Pennetta in the Women Tennis Trophy here on Sunday.

And the 27-year-old is already dreaming of winning an elusive women's crown at Wimbledon.

"It is another Justine Henin who will try and go out there and achieve her dream of finally winning Wimbledon," Henin said.

"I don't know if it's possible but that just makes it an even more passionate challenge for me."

Having beaten compatriot Kirsten Flipkens in the semifinal of this exhibition event on Saturday, Henin defeated Pennetta, currently 12th in the WTA rankings, 6-4, 6-4 to win the trophy.

Although not part of the official circuit, the victory will have given Henin the belief she can once more compete at the top level.

The 27-year-old Belgian announced her retirement from top-level tennis in May 2008 after winning seven Grand Slam titles and spending a total of 117 weeks at the top of the women's rankings.

Only months earlier, fellow Belgian Kim Clijsters made a stunning return to the sport by winning the US Open after a two-year absence to start a family.

Henin is due to make her official return to the WTA circuit in the Brisbane tournament that starts on January 3 next year, 15 days before the Australian Open in Melbourne.

She added: "To be honest, I don't have any big expectations as regards results in Australia."

"But I will be delighted just to return to the country again, I love it there, and to the official circuit."

"I've never regretted my decision to stop playing but now I'm really excited about the prospect of starting a second career that probably won't look anything like the first, at least in my mind."

Before heading Down Under, Henin will compete in another exhibition tournament in Cairo on December 12, when she will face Russia's 20th ranked Nadia Petrova.

Rollicking Razzaq

FROM PAGE 17

two batsmen after a shaky start," said Razzaq.

At Fatullah, Mohammedan went into the last game of the first round with a hope that they would carry their four points advantage to the Super League to fulfil their hopes of regaining the title after eight years back but they lost their rhythm to lowly Khelaghar.

After one game against Abahani, injured left-handed opener Tamim Iqbal was given rest for the game and Mohammmad Ashraf and Shamsur Rahman got off to a promising start but the Motijheel innings lost its way once Ashraf was dismissed for 33 runs.

Left-arm spinner Monirul Islam made the damage by taking five wickets for 42 runs and another left-arm spinner Biswanath Halder took three for 36 as Mohammedan finished their 50-over quota with 205 for 9.

Mahmudullah Riyad's 62-ball 54 was not good enough to put on a fighting score.

In reply, Khelaghar lost wickets at regular interval but number seven batsman Monwar Hossain kept his nerve during an unbeaten 67-ball 64 with four fours and a six as Khelaghar posted 208 for 6 in 44.4 overs.

Elsewhere, in a low-scoring match at BKSP, Biman defeated Victoria by five wickets to improve their tally to 16 points from eleven matches.

Pacer Tareq Aziz Khan and spinner Elias Sunny shared six wickets as Victoria, who defeated Gazi Tank in the previous round to confirm the Super League berth, were bundled out for 111 runs in 38.1 overs.

Biman's top order also struggled but they finally reached the target of 112-5 in 35 overs.

ABAHANI-SURJO

TORUN
Venue: SBNCs
ABAHANI: 335-8 in 50 overs (Karim 35, Razzaq 185, Nadif 61, extras 19; Monjurul 2-43, Mahbubul 3-72, Taposh 2-82).

SURJO TORUN: 170 all out in 39.5 overs (Mysukur 23, Deepok 61 not out, extras 3; Shuvashish 3-38, Sunny 2-25)

Result: Abahani won by 165 runs.
KHELAGHAR-MOHAMMEDAN

Venue: FATULLAH
MOHAMMEDAN: 205-9 in 46 overs (Shamsur 35, Ashraf 33, Aftab 17, Riyad 54, extras 20; Monirul Islam 20-52)

KHELAGHAR: 208-6 in 44.4 overs (Rakib 22, Niaz 29, Ashraf 43, Monwar Hossain 64 not out, extras 21; Rana 2-36)

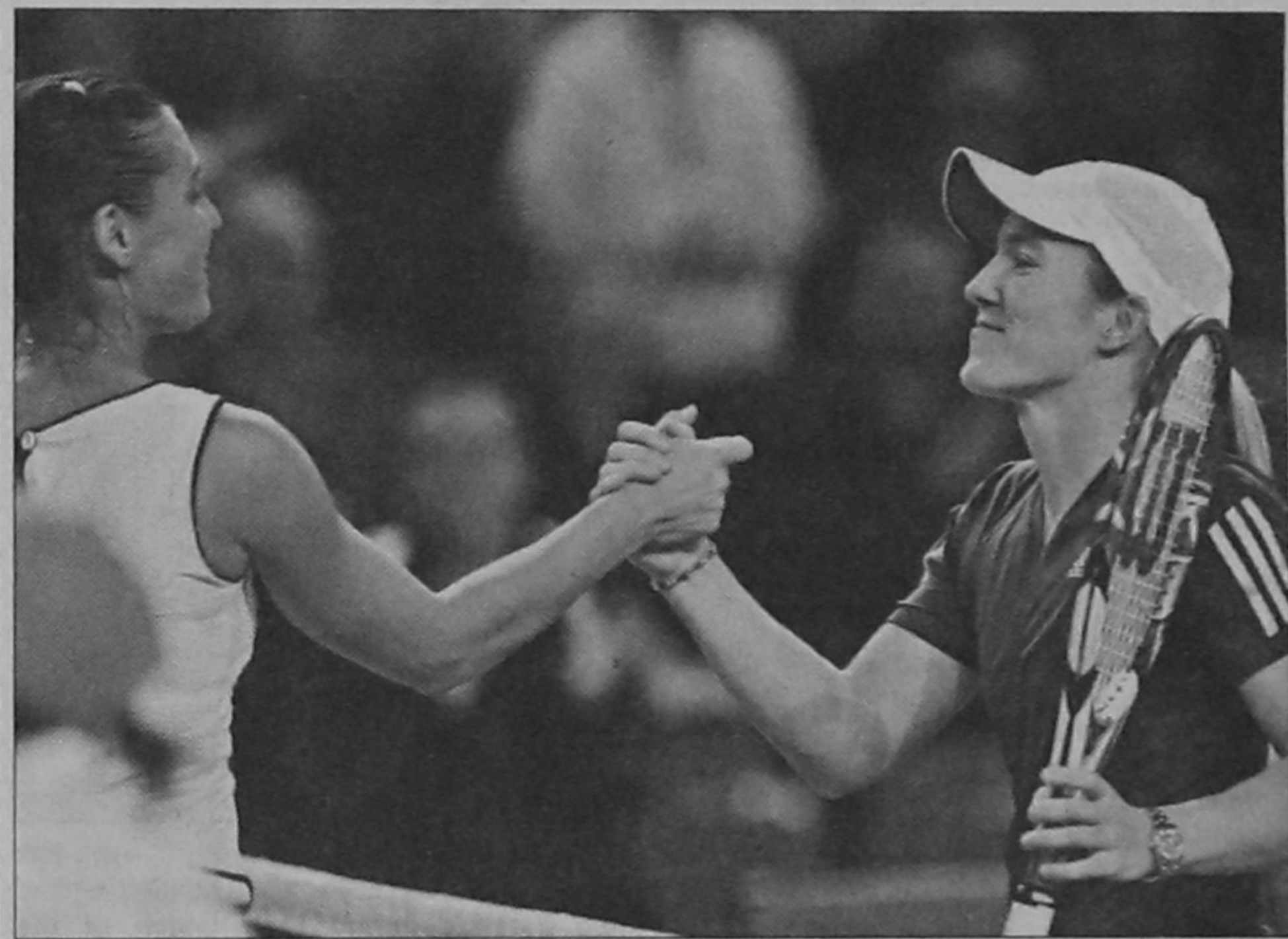
Result: Khelaghar won by four wickets.

BIMAN-VICTORIA

Venue: BKSP
VICTORIA: 111 all out in 38.1 overs (Kamrul 46, Salahuddin 21, extras 7; Tareq 3-17, Mosharraf 2-14, Sunny 3-23)

BIMAN: 112-5 in 35 overs (Sunny 22, Zahurul 15, Fernando 20, Tushar 27 not out, extras 12; Sajid 2-24, Monir 2-28)

Result: Biman won by five wickets.



Belgium's former world number one Justine Henin (R) shakes hands with Italian Flavia Pennetta after beating her at the final of the exhibition CPH Women Tennis Trophy in Charleroi on Sunday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	34 — hall meeting weeds	36 Month (Sp.)	37 Now, on a memo	38 Refugee	40 @	41 Non-sense	43 Will subject	47 Disen-cumber	48 Wasn't neutral	51 Lemieux milieu	52 Saskatch-ewan	53 Com-plain	54 Surprise cries	55 Flock	56 Host																
1 Tackled	5 Miss	9 Occupation	12 Incite	13 Padlock	14 Kyoto	15 Recurring	17 Thither	18 Fall	19 Propelled	21 — what?	22 Felix	24 Bad	27 "El —"	28 Old	31 Commotion	32 Peculiar	33 Actress														
2 Sandwich treat	3 "Zounds!"	4 Oust from a throne	6 Young bloke	7 Work with	8 English racetrack	9 Trips taken	10 Reed instrument	11 Tie	16 Pair	18 Pend	20 Homer's dad	22 Obama's veep	23 Puts in	24 Cistern	25 Altar	26 Leather materials	27 Arrive	29 Eggs	30 Chart	35 Carpet feature	37 Theseus' land	39 Fodder plant	40 Pompous sort	41 Small combo	42 Opulent	43 Scratch-ed (out)	44 Hebrew month	45 Clause in a contract	46 Get a glimpse of	49 Raw rock	50 — the ramps

Solution time: 25 mins.

S	A	G	A	G	A	D	M	E	R	E	
A	L	A	R	O	R	R	A	X	E	L	
C	O	M	E	T	O	M	E	S	C	A	B
K	E	E	N	E	D	S	E	C	U	R	E
O	W	L	T	A	B	C	R	E	A	M	
R	E	E	F	Y	O	U	A	M	M	O	
B	E	A	R	D	A	P	P	E	O	N	
N	E	A	T	G	E	M					
P	H	O	E	R	E	R	A	L	S	I	N
L	A	N	D	S	E						