

## MSC puts DMFA in a dilemma

**Sports Reporter**

The Dhaka Metropolitan Football Association (DMFA) has reacted strongly to Mohammedans' petition for shifting the imminent DMFA Cup dates to the club's plea as irresponsible.

"I don't understand how Mohammedans could come up with such a request at the eleventh hour," vented DMFA general secretary Kazi Mishu yesterday. "Moreover, they had a member in the fixture committee and he did not give any inkling of their handicap when the fixture was finished. The annoyed DMFA official added.

Holders Mohammedans who are to appear in their first match on May 7 forwarded a letter to DMFA on Thursday requesting the organisers to defer the second round of the curtain-raising meet of '94 domestic football season by 21 days. The second round comprising the four semi-finalists and the qualifiers of the first round is scheduled to begin from May 6, according to the "objected" fixture. Hit hard in this year's players' transfer, Mohammedans appraised the DMFA of its shortage of players and the consequential problem, in forming a decent eleven for the meet, a fact that may have prompted the club officials to refer to the preparatory period for the tourney as "too short".

Mishu who is also the one of joint-secretaries of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF), however dismissed MSC's appeal "they have no right to say that" we are not in a position to entertain their unwelcome request.

Actually, Mishu's angry reaction stemmed more from a financial viewpoint than any real ethical consideration. The fact of the matter is that the DMFA has loaned Taka 15 lakh from Agrani Bank at an interest rate 12.5 per cent to pay Taka one lakh in advance to each of the 20 First Division clubs following a joint appeal by the officials for refundable financial aid. The money is supposed to be reclaimed from the gate money lotted for the competing clubs.

This has put the DMFA in a tricky situation. While entertaining Mohammedans' request may mean an undesirable burden of accruing interest, negation of the popular club's appeal, in other words DMFA without one of the two top clubs of the country will certainly mean a drastic fall in the anticipated gate receipts. What the DMFA will do?

## Veni, vidi, vici

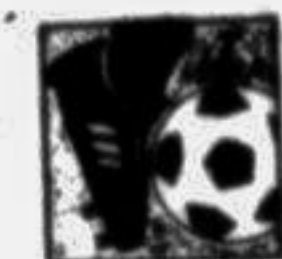
**LAS VEGAS, Apr 23:** John Michael Johnson captured the World Boxing Association bantamweight titles on Friday when the referee stopped his fight with previously undefeated champion Junior Jones, at 1:21 of the 11th round, reports Reuters.

Johnson, a 7-1 underdog making his first attempt at a world title, knocked down and hurt Jones early in the 11th with a series of five rights and two lefts to the head.

Jones, in his second defence of the title he won in October, was groggy and an easy target after he got up for the looping lefts and rights that jarred his head, leading referee Richard Steele to halt the bout.

## Tapie banished from French soccer arena

# Marseille relegated



**PARIS, Apr 23:** French soccer authorities condemned Marseille to the Second Division on Friday and barred club president Bernard Tapie from French football for life over last year's Valenciennes match-fixing affairs, reports Reuters.

French Football Federation (FFF) president Claude Simonet announced punitive measures on the club and the players involved in last year's scandal after a day-long hearing followed by almost four hours of deliberation.

Marseille, European champions and the most expensive club ever assembled in France, were relegated to the Second Division from next season, although Simonet said they would not be barred from playing in European competition if they qualified.

Tapie had his licence as a soccer director withdrawn. Simonet said he would not be given a licence for future activity in French soccer.

He said former Marseille general secretary Jean-Pierre Bernes, would also be barred for life and the three players involved suspended until July 1, 1996.

But the three, Jean-Jacques Eydelie of Marseille and Christophe Robert and Jorge Burruchaga of Valenciennes, would be allowed to apply to play outside France from July 1 this year if the International Football Federation (FIFA) agreed.

The disciplinary measures followed last May's Valenciennes-Marseille league match when Eydelie handed over 250,000 francs (50,000 dollars) to Robert's wife after asking Robert, Burruchaga and a third Valenciennes player Jacques Glassmann to lose the match.

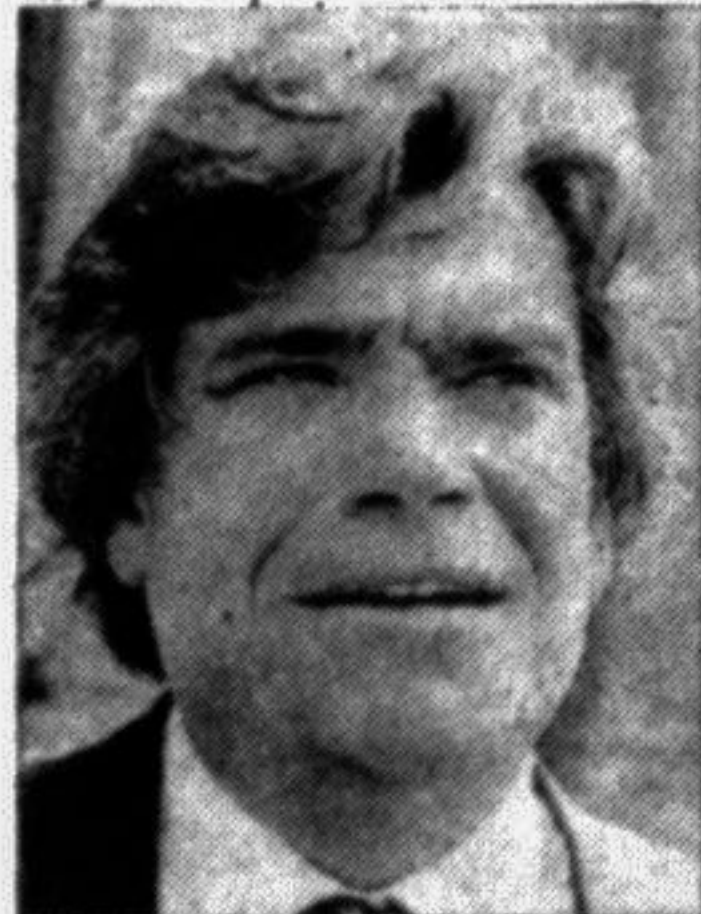
Eydelie said he was given the cash by Bernes. Glassmann refused to go along with the plan as "blew the whistle".

Earlier in the day, the federation postponed today quarter-final French Cup match in Marseille against Montpellier after receiving threats from the club's fans.

In Marseille, the club's fans reacted angrily to the news.

"They've hit us hard. We're going to do the same," said Michel Tonini, president of the Ultras Supporters' Club.

"We're going to do to Paris to fix this lamentable affair. We hate these old men who think they can play with Marseille"



BERNARD TAPIE

With impunity.

Jacques Pellissier, chairman of the Central Supporters' Club, said he was devastated by the news. "I can understand them punishing the men involved but it's not right to condemn a club."

"Even with a European Cup next season, there's no getting out of it financially. They are making us die a slow death."

Marseille defender Basile

## Tenacious Tapie

**MARSEILLE, France, Apr 23:** Bernard Tapie vowed on Saturday to fight the decision to relegate Olympique Marseille and ban him from football as punishment for his club's role in the Valenciennes match-fixing scandal, reports AFP.

Tapie told AFP he would be taking the decision to relegate the European Cup holders to court and would be appealing his own ban through the arbitration committee of the national Olympic committee.

But Tapie claimed the federation, had made its decision in advance and denounced the sanctions as "a premeditated murder."

Tapie's criticism was echoed in press reaction.

Boli, scorer of the winning goal last May when Marseille beat AC Milan as his team became the first French club to win the European Cup, said: "It's very hard."

Under French soccer regulations, there is no appeal against the federation's ruling, although an aggrieved party could take the matter before the French Olympic Committee.

Marseille's financial director Alain Laroche said Tapie would take the issue to the civil courts.

When under threat in the past, Tapie has resorted to every legal move possible to avoid sanctions.

Relegation to the Second Division would mean that Marseille's star players would be forced to leave to help the club survive financially.

Boli and Didier Deschamps are already rumoured to be moving to Italian teams at the end of the season.

Marseille had already sold three players during the season to offset the losses incurred when the European Football Union (UEFA) barred them from the European Cup and international soccer over the Valenciennes affair.

Paulo Futre, Marcel Desailly and Alen Boksic all moved to Italy last autumn.

Marseille were also fined recently for having illegal clauses in a number of players' contracts.

All those punished by the FFF on Friday are also under judicial investigation in the Valenciennes affair and could face trial later this year.

Friday's sanctions came at the end of a day of hearings at the federation at which Robert, Eydelie, Glassmann and Tapie all gave evidence. Burruchaga, who is in Argentina, and Bernes did not attend.

The federation did not make clear whether an earlier, provisional decision to strip Marseille of last season's league title still stood and whether a new champion had been named to replace them.

Current French league leaders Paris St Germain finished second in the league last season and logically should inherit the title.

## Two atop in nat'l women's chess

**Sports Reporter**

Tanima Parvin shared the top spot with Shabana Parvin defeating Roxana Gulshan in the sixth round of the 15th national women's chess championship at the National Sports Council chessroom yesterday.

Tanima Parvin, of Chittagong who was trailing Shabana Parvin by half a point now shares the lead with Shabana both having collected five points each.

In yesterday's encounters Shabana was held to a draw by Afroza Khanom.

Zakia Sultana who scored a win over Selina Banu, secured the second position with four points followed by Afroza Khanom who earned three and a half points.

International Women's Master Rani Hamid smarting under her successive defeats won her match against Nurunnahar who is yet to open her account.

Asfana Parveen the younger sister of Shabana beat Jahannara Haq in this round.

## BCCB's 'review' meeting shifted

**Sports Reporter**

The regular executive committee meeting of the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) which was scheduled for today has been deferred by ten days.

The meeting which was expected to review the debacle of the Bangladesh cricket team in the fifth ICC Trophy, has been shifted to May 3 because of the non-availability of the Board President and Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman.

Bangladesh, a pre-tournament favourite in the ICC tournament held recently in the Kenyan capital Nairobi failed to qualify for the semi-final of the meet.

The BCCB is yet to receive the official report of former Indian Test cricketer Mohinder Amarnath who was in charge of coaching the team for the ICC Trophy. The enigmatic Indian, whose introvert, buttoned up attitude has given rise to confusion and discontentment among the concerned quarters did not come back with the team and flew straight home from Kenya.

## BHF calls 36 players

Bangladesh Hockey Federation yesterday initially picked 36 players to form the national team for the 12th Asian Games to be held this year in the Japanese city of Hiroshima, reports UNB.

The national team will also take part in the All India Him Gold Cup Hockey tournament under the banner of "Dhaka Eleven" as part of their preparation for the Hiroshima Asiad.

The Him Gold Cup Hockey tournament will be held June 1-7 at Mandi in the Indian state of Himachal.

The selected players are: Goalkeeper: Asir (Abahani), Jahangir (Army), Shamim (Ajax), Tushar (Usha) and Salim (Air Force).

Back: Rabi, Guddu, Mitul, Sadek (Usha), Mamun, Khurshid, Tapan (Abahani), Nixon, Ejaz, (Mohammedans), Issa and Shahiduzzaman (Mariners).

Half: Haroon, Piru (Abahani), Musa, Sharafat (Ajax) and Haider Alam (Mohammedan).

Forward: Sadek, Zahid, Rubel (Mohammedan), Raju, Alamgir Alam (Abahani), Kamal, Ehtesham (Usha), Blyaka (Mariners), Shahjahan (Army), Farhad, Mantaj, Karim (Navy), Masud (Air Force), Shamsuzzaman and Sikander (BKSP).

The selected players have been asked to report to Pratap Shankar Hazra and Ehtesham Sultan on April 25 at 4 pm at the Hockey Stadium where the first phase coaching will start on the same day.

After a two-week training at the hockey stadium, the team will be sent to BKSP for a residential camp, a federation official said today (Saturday).

## Return of the native?

**BRISBANE, Apr 23:** Nadia Comaneci, the former Olympic gold medalist who captivated the world by scoring the first perfect 10, promised on Thursday to return to her native Romania to help find the gymnasts of the future, reports Reuters.

Comaneci defected from her homeland in 1989, three weeks before the fall of the former communist regime, and has not returned since.

The 1976 Montreal Olympic Games champion spoke of her desire after announcing a 100,000 dollar sponsorship for Romanian gymnastics through her management company.

Comaneci, 32, said the gymnastics programme had changed little in Romania despite the political upheavals.



Michael Moorer (C) poses with the IBF and WBA heavyweight title belts after defeating champion Evander Holyfield in a 12-round decision in Las Vegas on Friday. — AFP photo

## Moorer, first southpaw to do it



**LAS VEGAS, Apr 23:** It would be a left-handed compliment to call Michael Moorer the heavyweight

champion.

But that's what Moorer is after outpointing Evander Holyfield to win the IBF and WBA titles Friday night and become the first left-handed heavyweight champion in history, reports AP.

Moorer, unbeaten in 35 fights, got up from a second-round knockdown and controlled the match the rest of the way, landing countless right jabs, short hooks and slamming body shots.

The official decision, however, was close.

When it was announced that judge Dalby Shirley had the fight even at 114-114, there were boos from the crowd of 13,000 outdoors at Caesars

Palace.

Ring announcer Michael Butler said judge Chuck Giampa scored it 16-112 and Jerry Roth 115-112 "for the new heavyweight champion of the world."

The Associated Press card favoured Moorer 118-111.

Moorer was dominating the second round with his right jab and a couple lefts to the head when at 2:41 of the round Holyfield landed a left and right that knocked Moorer down.

"I was stunned for a minute," said Moorer, who took an 8-count on one knee before getting up.

Moorer's jab was the key punch in the fight, Holyfield, who began to look old in the first half of the fight, simply had no answer for it.

Moorer, 26, cut Holyfield over the left eye in the fifth round and pounded his face

lumpy.

Holyfield, the warrior to the end, kept coming, although Moorer probably backed him up more than did any previous opponent.

"Everyone talked about the fight going 12 rounds," Moorer said. "I just had to keep my jab."

Moorer kept his poise throughout the match and sometimes became too complacent of trainer Teddy Atlas, who several times hollered for Moorer to keep jabbing.

At the end of the ninth round, Atlas shouted at Moorer during the rest period after Moorer had none little the previous round.

In the 12th round, Moorer opened up and had the 31-year-old Holyfield showing the age and the effects of the many battles he had in a career dating to 1984.

Holyfield tried to go toe-to-toe with Moorer in the final round but Moorer had him reeling backward on several occasions, mainly from the right jab.

In the final seconds, Moorer began nodding his head and at the bell ran to his corner and leaped onto the bottom strand of the ropes.

After the decision was announced, Moorer's 19-month-old son, Michael II, joined him in the ring.

"I felt like I was in the fight. Maybe when I see the tape I will feel differently," Holyfield said. "Now I feel tired and sore."

Before the fight, Holyfield had sparred with a couple of left-handers and didn't think Moorer's left-handed style would be a factor.

But that was not the case.

"The left-handed style was a big problem," the former champion said. "I trained for it but it was still a big problem."

The only previous left-hander Holyfield had faced was Jesse Shelby, who he knocked out in the third round on April 6, 1986.

The cut made it difficult but Michael Moorer fought a great fight," Holyfield said.

The knockdown in the second round was the fourth time Moorer had been on the floor in his professional career, but none of the were able to alter the outcome of any of his fights.

Moorer was the third lefty to challenge for the heavyweight title.

In 1966, Muhammad Ali stopped Karl Mildenberger in the 12th round and 10 years later he stopped Richard Dunn in the fifth round.

After Holyfield lost the undisputed title to Riddick Bowe on Nov. 13, 1992 (Lennox Lewis is the WBC champion now), he was advised to retire by people around him and was hurt when they told him he was too old.

Holyfield certainly looked old Friday night as he lost for the second time.

## WINDIES-ENGLAND AVERAGES

**LONDON, Apr 23:** Batting and bowling averages of the Test series between West Indies and England:

Test batting averages (matches, innings, not out, runs, highest score, average, 100s, 50s, catches, stumpings):

WEST INDIES:										
Lara	5	8	0	798	375	99.75	2	2	9	0
Adams	5	7	1	374	137	62.33	1	2	8	0
Charlton	4	6	1	288	77	57.60	0	4	3	0
Arthurton	5	7	0	273	126	39.00	1	1	1	0
Haynes	4	7	1	217	63	36.17	0	1	0	0
Murray	1	1	0	34	34	34.00	0	0	3	0
Richardson	4	7	1	163	63	27.17	0	1	4	0
Williams	1	2	1	24	21N	24.00	0	0	0	0
W Benjamin	5	6	0	138	44	23.00	0	0	3	0
Simmons	2	4	1	50	22N	16.67	0	0	0	0
Ambrrose	5	6	0	91	44	15.17	0	0	1	0
K Benjamin	5	6	2	58	43N	14.50	0	0	0	0
Murray	4	5	1	46	27N	11.50	0	0	10	0
Walsh	5	6	2	42	18N	10.50	0	0	1	0
ENGLAND:										
Atherton	5	9	0	519	144	56.67	2	2	3	0
Stewart	5	9	0	477	143	53.00	2	2	2	0
Smith	5	9	0	320	175	35.56	1	1	1	0
Hick	5	9	0	316	96	35.11	0	2	3	0
Thorpe	5	9	0	239	86	25.56	0	2	6	0
Russell	5	9	1	195	62	24.38	0	1	10	0
Lewis	5	9	1	170	75N	21.25	0	1	2	0
Maynard	1	2	0	35	35	17.50	0	0	1	0
Salisbury	2	4	0	63	36	15.75	0	0	1	0
Caddick	4	6	1	69	29N	13.80	0	0	2	0
Malcolm	1	2	0	24	18	12.00	0	0	0	0
Rampersack	4	7	0	73	23	10.43	0	0	2	0
Fraser	4	6	3	11	8N	3.67	0	0	2	0
Igglesden	2	4	2	4	3N	2.00	0	0	0	0
Tufnell	2	2	1	0	0	0.00	0	0	2	0

Test match bowling averages (overs, maidens, runs, wickets, average, 5-wicket innings, 10-wicket matches, best figures):

WEST INDIES:										
Ambrrose	224.2	59	519	26	19.96	2	1	6	24	
K Benjamin	182.5	38	566	22	25.73	1	0	6	66	
Walsh	227.2	44	646	19	34.00	1	0	5	94	
W Benjamin	190.2	48	498	12	41.50	0	0	3	76	
Adams	50.5	8	173	4	43.25	0	0	2	74	
Arthurton	5	1	9	0	0.00	0	0	0	5	
Simmons	3	1	4	0	0.00	0	0	0	4	
ENGLAND:										
Fraser	169.5	39	443	16	27.69	1	0	8	75	
Caddick	170.2	30	545	18	30.28	2	0	6	65	
Salisbury	68	9	276	7	39.43	0	0	4	163	
Lewis	168.3	18	553	14	39.50	0	0	4	61	
Malcolm	28	4	132	3	44.00	0	0	3	113	
Igglesden	55.3	8	183	3	61.00	0	0	3	100	
Tufnell	113	36	291	4	72.75	0	0	3	55	
Hick	69	12	187	2	93.50	0	0	1	11	
Smith	8	2	11	0	0.00	0	0	0	8	
Stewart	32.0	0	13	0	0.00	0	0	1	0	
Thorpe	2	1	1	0	0.00	0	0	0	1	



Andrei Medvedev of Ukraine prepares to make a backhand return to American Jim Courier during their quarterfinal match at the Monte Carlo Open on Friday. Medvedev won 6-7 (5-7), 7-5, 7-6 (7-3) to move into the semifinals. — AFP photo

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Gomer's

4 Estival

8 Probable

12 Raw rock

13 Asta's

14 Curved

15 Proscription

16 Johnny's

18 Short

20 Onassis,

21 Cultivate

24 Hazardous

28 Exemplar

32 Cylindrical

33 You might

34 "The Prince

36 Chap

37 Wield a

39 Manicure

41 Handy-

43 Take to

the sea

44 Sundial

46 Catarrh

50 Office

55 Altar

56 "The

57 Gin flavor

58 Mrs. Larry

59 Bette

60 Love (L)

61 MGM

DOWN

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2 Saddam's

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4 Snap of

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45 Hillary's

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49 Sentry's

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53 "Night-

54 Kanga's

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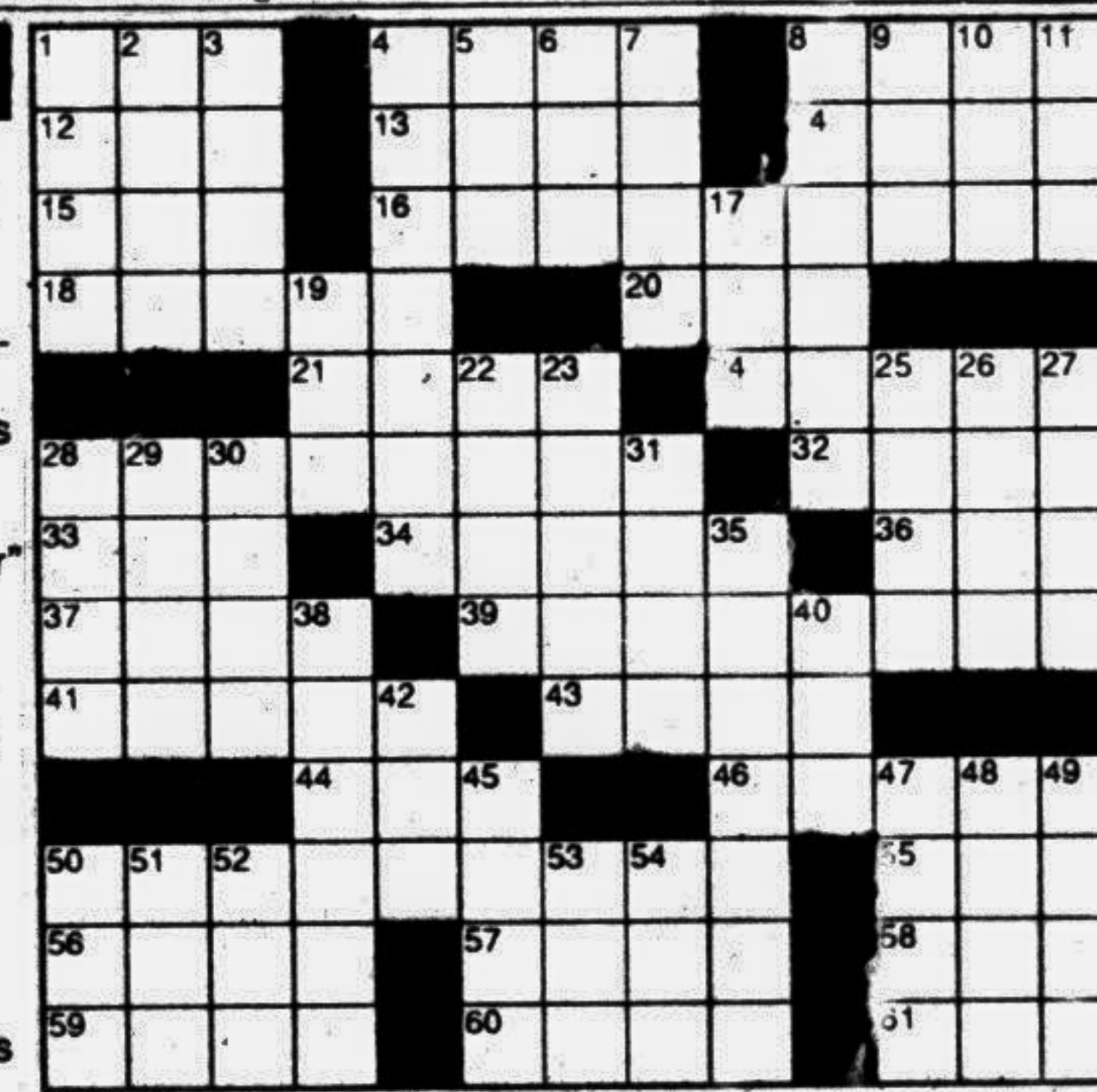
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CRYPTOQUIP

V G C A P F I G F B I R S  
B T W S Q Q T W U P S X W F U  
L R F Z X B Z C N X N W S I  
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Yesterday's Cryptiquip: MY PAL, THE PLAYGROUND DIRECTOR, ALWAYS LISTENED TO SWING