

Abahani adamant

Sports Reporter

Dhaka Metropolitan Football Association (DMFA) yesterday failed to pursue Abahani Krira Chakra into reverting their decision to boycott the ongoing DMFA Cup on grounds of inconsistency on the part of the organisers.

The DMFA, which convened an emergency meeting yesterday after Abahani issued a press release Sunday announcing their decision to stop taking any further part in the ill-fated curtain-raising tournament, just when the organisers brought Mohammedans back into the fold. Holders Mohammedans were earlier staying away from the meet in line with a similar boycott threat following their differences with the organisers over a demand of deferment of the tournament.

Abahani, who earlier played their first match on May 6, took the boycott stand maintaining that the fixture could not be changed once the tournament started. Mohammedans boycott threat did force the DMFA into rethinking the meet.

Shamsul Arefin Tutul, who represented Abahani in yesterday's meeting, informed of his club's decision to stick to Sunday's stand leaving the reconciliatory party adjourned till 5 pm today.

The DMFA representative with the members of the other seven clubs of the eight team second round of the meet are expected to cajole the Abahani officials, fully equipped with combined overtures 19 of the 20 Senior Division clubs as well as personal request of the DMFA President, for the resumption of the popular, big club's participation.

The DMFA president M Azzul Haq, who is hopeful of Abahani's participation in the tournament said, "I don't want to blame Abahani but for the greater interest of football they should take part".

Kazi Mishu, the general secretary of the DMFA termed the prevailing situation as freezing but added, "It's melting". He further added that he has been assigned to prepare a fixture before the start of the adjourned meeting today but only if the mission in the morning to pacify Abahani turns out successful.

Boys prove MSC's angels

Sports Reporter

Mohammedan Sporting Club footballers made a nonsense of their officials' ostentatious out-cry over inadequate prep time when they ran all over the Premier league promotes Bangladesh Boys in a fabulous 5-0 win in yesterday's lone DMFA Cup engagement at the Dhaka Stadium.

The reigning champions, who were locked in a grim battle with the organiser Dhaka Metropolitan Football Association

a dozen goals were not for the jack-easy attitude of their forwards.

Mahbubur Rahman Roxy, who undid his hard work with some erratic shooting, found the net for the black and whites in the 14th minutes when he nodded the ball home after a long throw by Alamgir came to him via tall central defender Kaiser Hamid.

Young Asad playing first time for any big club scored Mohammedans' second goal from a little doubtful position. The young forward, who

newcomer in the Mohammedans' ranks, from arch-rivals Abahani Krira Chakra who swung in a neat minus for skipper Rumman Bin Wali Shabbir to knock the ball in.

It was barely five minutes into the second half when Mohammedans completed their quartet. Skillful Shabbir was tripped from behind inside the box and referee Badruddin promptly pointed to the dreaded spot. Asad's powerful drive from the spot gave Boys' goalie Mofizuddin no chance.

After a prolonged tale of



Zahid Hossum, one of the rookies in this year's new look Mohammedan Sporting Club, takes a tumble while going for a dicy cross along with Shakil, another newcomer during their DMFA Cup opener against Bangladesh Boys. The reigning champions romped home 5-0 at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

(DMFA), demanding delayed holding of the tourney's final round, played like a seasoned, cohesive unit to take an unsailable 3-0 in the first 45 minutes of the monotonously one-side match.

Mohammedans, who at one stage threatened to boycott the curtain-raising meet of this year's domestic football season, and in fact stayed away from the ground on May 7, the day of the original schedule ignoring DMFA's fixture in protest of authorities' refusal to listen to their plea could have won by

earned laurels and cash awards, for his performance during Bangladesh under-16 team's recent tour of Saudi Arabia, was apparently in an off-side position when a through from industrious Nurul Haq Manik set him in motion.

National footballer Manik, who has joined Mohammedans from Brothers Union only this year set up Mohammedans' third goal minutes before the short whistle. He rolled on a splendid through on the path of a pacing Shakil, another

fruitless dominance marked by inept shooting, substitute Riaz netted the elusive fifth goal, heading a Shabbir flag-kick home from close.

Roxy and Shakil came across a few more sitters but all of them went a-begging and the holders had to be content with a 5-0 victory which was yet quite flattering, suggesting quite clearly that minimum preparation Mohammedans always had in plenty.

Meanwhile there will be no DMFA Cup matches scheduled for today.

Gooch eager for Test recall

LONDON, May 9: Graham Gooch has changed his mind about not touring again and told England's chairman of selectors Ray Illingworth that he is available to go to Australia later this year, reports Reuter.

The 40-year-old former England captain, having spoken to Illingworth before Essex's Sunday league match against Durham at Stockton, is back in the frame to play for his country.

Gooch said last season he would never tour again, and was not available for the West Indies campaign earlier this year.

But Illingworth made it clear when he was elected as the new chairman of selectors recently that he would not consider any one for England who was not available for winter trips.

Illingworth said after speaking to Gooch: "He has told me he would still like to play for England in all matches and would be happy to tour Australia."

"He is still just about the best player in England and he is in contention for the one-day games against New Zealand."

"He agrees Mike Atherton and Alec Stewart should consider him."

Open Summer badminton results

Sports Reporter

Three players Rinku, Jahan and Arifuzzaman won their respective matches on the second day of the Open Summer badminton tournament at the NSC wooden floor gymnasium yesterday.

Rinku of Sheltech Club eliminated Bahadur 15-1, 15-3; Jahan of Unnayan Club defeated Masum of Sputnik International 15-8, 15-3 while Arifuzzaman of Rangpur beat Enayet of Unnayan Club by 15-12, 15-5.

Eighteen men's singles matches were decided on Sunday, the first day of the meet.

"Although he had a brief chat, Keith did not speak to him fully and, of course, he should have done so," said Illingworth. "That left us in the lurch a bit."

"I have not been able to see Graham personally until today because I have been busy going to other games to watch other players."

Div II qualifying cricket results

Sports Reporter

Raju hammered a sparkling half-century as his team posted a 19-run win over Pirebagh KC in one of the three matches of the Lotus Kamal Second Division qualifying matches at different city venues yesterday.

At the Jagannath Hall ground Maghbazar, sent into bat first, scored a moderate 124 for six in the allotted 20 overs with Raju hitting 62 off only 54 balls.

In reply, Pirebagh could muster only 105 for nine wickets with extras contributing the highest 19.

In the other match of the day on the western strip of the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Barnak Samaj Kalyan defeated Altaf Eleven by 20 runs.

Batting first Barnak Samaj made 113 for nine in the stipulated 25 overs and then went on to restrict Altaf Eleven to 93, bowling them out in 23.3 overs.

Sunrise SC who played Kazi Para on the eastern strip of DCS, registered a big eight-wicket win in a low-scoring match.

Batting first, Kazi Para were bundled out for a paltry 57 in 19 overs.

Sunrise reached the victory target of 58 losing just two wickets in only 15.2 overs.

Opener Imran remained not out on 22 for the winners.

Border to bid goodbye soon

MELBOURNE, May 9: An announcement on whether Australian skipper Allan Border is likely to retire after 15 years' of Test cricket could be made here as early this week, reports AFP.

The Australian Cricket Board meets here Monday and Tuesday to finalise details for a tour of Sri Lanka and Pakistan in September, but the future of Border will be on top of the agenda.

Selectors met here on Friday and an announcement on the team is expected to be made on Thursday.

Border, 39, said after the recent tour of South Africa he wanted a month to consider whether he would retire.

Although there has been no official comment from the ACB there was speculation that the curtain was about to fall on Border's international career following newspaper reports that the board was expected to interview the four leading candidates for the position tomorrow.

Those listed as possible replacements include opener Mark Taylor, who is the current vice-captain but has been unable to command a regular place in the Australian one-day team, all-rounder Steve Waugh and Test wicketkeeper Ian Healy.

If Border calls it a day, a new captain and vice-captain would be appointed for the first time in 10 years.

Border has played a record 156 Tests, dating back to his debut in December 1978.

He scored 11,174 runs during his international career at an average of 50.56, and took 156 catches.

Palmer pips Martin

PINEHURST, NC, May 9: Jared Palmer of the US, ranked 97 and playing relentlessly attacking tennis, won the first title of his career at the 275,000 dollars USTA clay court classic on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Palmer, unseeded and playing in his first final, upset top seeded American, Todd Martin, ranked 9 in the world, 6-4, 7-6 (7-5) to collect the trophy and a 42,000 dollars winner's cheque.

Martin, who served well but made unforced errors on his forehand and volley, took 21,200 dollars as runner-up.

The victory was 22-year-old Palmer's biggest upset of his career. Better known as a doubles specialist, Palmer's stylish net game served him well in singles play on Sunday.

Palmer escaped three break points in the first set which would have given Martin a 5-2 lead. Instead, Palmer climbed his way back into the set, using skilful lobs and volleys to reach 5-4.

Palmer broke Martin for the first set 6-4 when Martin missed an easy volley.

A fatigued Martin used his big serve to stay in the match in the second set but missed four more opportunities to break Palmer in the fifth and seventh games. Instead, games went without service breaks to 6-6 and the tiebreak.

Palmer started badly in the tiebreak, double-faulting on the first point but recovered to break Martin back twice. That gave Palmer a 6-5 lead and he served out the victory as Martin returned deep.

"Jared volleyed very well and today he hit his groundstrokes well," Martin said. "I needed to get to the net and try to make him pass me and I didn't do that enough."

Martin said he was most disappointed with his own game.

Imran says both 'yes' & 'no'

LAHORE, May 9: Former Pakistan cricket captain Imran Khan, admitting ball-tampering, said on Sunday scratching the ball or lifting the seam was not cheating, reports Reuter.

He was commenting on a British Sunday newspaper report that quoted him admitting to ball-tampering.

Imran, one of the world's greatest all-rounders, made the admission in an authorised biography to be published later this month.

It adds a fresh dimension to the controversial issue of doctoring the ball to achieve exceptional swing that erupted when Pakistan last toured England in 1992.

that ball tampering became an issue.

"Scratching the ball or lifting the seam has gone on ever since cricket has been played and, within limits, this was accepted as part of the game."

Imran said: "I was surprised at the naivety of journalists who seem to have discovered this new form of cheating only two years back."

"They should ask some ex-cricketers and they will be surprised to discover the types of tampering that have gone on, specially in county cricket in England such as applying substances like vaseline to the



IMRAN KHAN

ball, and particularly lifting the seam."

Imran is also said to reveal in his biography that he used a bottle top to try and tamper with the ball and make it swing more.

"When Sussex were playing Hampshire in 1981 the ball was not deviating at all. I got

the 12th man to bring on a bottle top and it started to move around quite a lot," Imran is quoted as saying in the book.

"But that was narrated as an amusing incident and I have done such thing only once in my cricketing career," Imran said on Sunday. "It can be called cheating but the way I saw it at the time it was simply a silly incident."

Imran, who announced his retirement from the game towards the end of 1992, is the fifth highest wicket-taker in Test history with 362 wickets in addition to scoring 3,607 runs in his 88 tests.

Imran was quoted in a British newspaper last November as saying he doubted his country would play series against England again this century because of the depth of bad feeling engendered by ball-tampering allegations.

The Pakistani pacemen were accused of doctoring the ball on their tour of England two years ago.

The bitterness was highlighted again last November by a libel case in which ex-Pakistan pace bowler Sarfraz Nawaz sued former England batsman Allan Lamb.

The Pakistani had sought damages over allegations in a newspaper article by Lamb that Sarfraz had once detailed the techniques of ball-tampering. It was suggested he had passed on his skills to the present generation of fast bowlers.

Sarfraz, once a teammate of Lamb in English county cricket with Northamptonshire, withdrew his libel action on the fourth day of the proceedings.

Crowe regains his touch

TAUNTON, England, May 9: Martin Crowe boosted the morale of the struggling New Zealand cricketers on Sunday with a fluent unbeaten half century on the second day of the tourists' match against Somerset, reports Reuter.

At the close of a rain-interrupted day, New Zealand were 131 for one in reply to Somerset's 364 for eight.

Crowe, the one New Zealand player of indisputable world class, has spent six months recovering from a knee injury which threatens to cut short his distinguished career and scored only seven runs in the opening match against Worcestershire.

He was placed under immediate pressure on Sunday, coming to the wicket with New Zealand 13 for one after the pace Dutchman Andre van Troost had dismissed Bryan Young for five.

Crowe also had to contend with compatriot Andrew Caddick, who has opted to play Test cricket for England, and Pakistan leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed.

But the elegant New

Zealand, although limping noticeably, prevented any further alarms and inspired opener Blair Pooce (58 not out) to join him in an unbroken stand of 118.

Crowe was especially fluent against Mushtaq, playing some delightful offside strokes, and his 50 took only 97 balls with six boundaries.

Earlier Somerset wicket-keeper Robert Turner underlined the paucity of the New Zealand bowling reserves when he converted his overnight 30 into 104 not out with his second 50 taking only 47 deliveries.

New Zealand were without their first-choice opening bowlers Danny Morrison and Simon Doull who are both carrying injuries, although Morrison is expected to be fit for the next match against Middlesex starting at Lord's on Thursday.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the second day of the three-day cricket match between Somerset and New Zealand on Sunday:

SOMERSET: first innings (overnight 229-5)				
Lathwell c Pooce b Davis	11			
Fletcher c Thomson b Davis	51			
Harden c Greatbatch b Davis	6			

Folland c Parore b Larsen	29
Hayhurst c Pooce b Hart	84
Rose c Parore b Larsen	16
Turner not out	104
Mushtaq c Thomson b Hart	23
Caddick c Davis b Hart	8
Van Troost not out	1
Extras: (b-15, w-4, nb-12)	31
Total: (For eight wickets declared)	364

Fall of wickets: 1-33; 2-60; 3-77; 4-134; 5-158; 6-276; 7-336; 8-362.

Did not bat: H Trump

Bowling:	O	M	R	W
Pringle	21	7	58	0
Davis	28	2	127	3
Larsen	32	10	63	2
Hart	26	7	68	3
Thomson	15	3	33	0

NEW ZEALAND: first innings	
Young c Turner b Van Troost	5
Poocock not out	58
Crowe not out	53
Extras: (b-6, lb-3, nb-6)	15
Total: (for one wicket)	131

Fall of wicket: 1-13

To bat: S Fleming, M Greatbatch, S Thomson, C Pringle, M Hart, G Larsen, A Parore, H Davis

Bowling:	O	M	R	W
Caddick	15	2	38	0
Van Troost	8	2	12	1
Rose	5	0	20	0
Mushtaq	9	0	44	0
Trump	2	1	8	0

Lancashire's triple loss

LONDON, May 9: Lancashire lost Pakistan captain Wasim Akram and Neil Fairbrother with injuries as they crashed to an amazing one run defeat in an incident-packed Sunday league clash against Surrey at Old Trafford, reports Reuter.

Wasim limped off midway through an over and Fairbrother was forced to retire hurt after a brilliant half century.

Both have hamstring strains and are unlikely to figure on the last day of the championship game between the sides today.

They also face a race against time to recover for the Benson and Hedges Cup tie at Derby on Tuesday.

Lancashire's misery was complete when they tumbled to an incredible defeat by one run. Surrey's 179 for seven looked no problem as Fair-

brother (69) and Graham Lloyd (77) put on 140 for the third wicket.

It took them to 164 for two in the 37th over, needing only another 16 to win.

But Surrey got revenge for their Benson and Hedges Cup defeat last season when they collapsed at The Oval.

This time Lancashire stumbled to disaster. As wickets tumbled Wasim returned with the bat, using John Crawley as a runner, but became one of three run out victims in the last three overs as Lancashire finished on 178 for six.

At Southampton, stand-in captain Mohammad Azharuddin guided Derbyshire to a seven-wicket win over Hampshire.

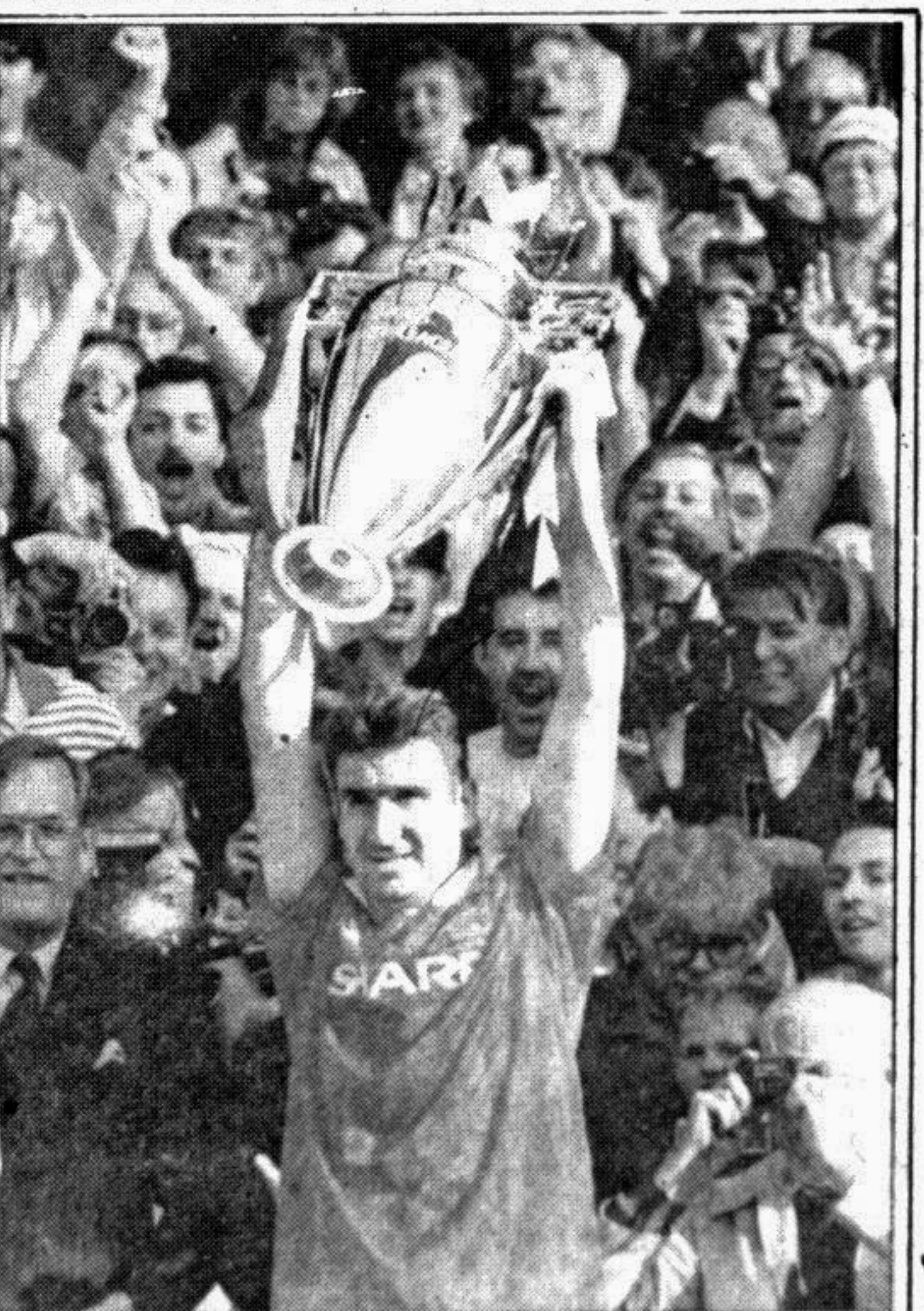
The Indian captain, deputising for the injured Kim Barnett, thumped 71 off 57 balls including five sixes, three of which sailed out of the ground.

He received good support from Tim O'Gorman in a partnership of 117 in 18 overs to ease Derbyshire home with two balls to spare.

At Northampton, Otis Gibson provided a spectacular finale as Glamorgan opened the defence of their title with a four-wicket victory.

Gibson settled the issue with a superbly struck straight six off fellow West Indian Curtly Ambrose, taking the Welsh county past Northants' modest 148 for eight with 11 balls to spare.

Organisers said demand remained strong on the fifth day individual tickets were available to the public.



French international Eric Cantona of Manchester United lifts the FA league trophy at United's Old Trafford ground on Saturday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Adverse fate

5 Injure badly

9 Apprehend

12 Look lecherously

13 Radius neighbor

14 Cry from the gallery

15 Bridge coup

17 "You — There"

18 Author Maurice

19 "— Have Eyes for You"

21 Dorothy's auntie

22 Harmonize

24 Serves as a reminder

27 — tai (cocktail)

28 Shadow-box

31 Call a spade a hoe?

32 Godfrey's instrument

33 Reuben holder

34 Shipbuilding wood

36 Kennedy

DOWN

1 Wieners

2 Fairy-tail baddie

3 "Good Earth"

4 Musicmaker Sergio

5 Ox's gift to perfumers

6 Every last iota

7 One-million link

8 Ike's missus

9 "Evangeline" setting

10 Count counter-part

11 Bridge score-pad

12 Dawn heading

13 Solution time: 22 mins.

16 Weir

20 Switch places?

22 Tub passer

23 Risked nose

24 Lustrous black

25 Raw rock

26 Some of them are great

27 Trombone insert

29 Nay canceler

30 Agent

35 Indispensable

37 Color for a "people eater"

39 Wayne Newton territory

40 Crazy

41 Laugh-a-minute type

42 Child's play

43 Hitch

44 Vicinity

45 Supermarket stack

46 Labyrinth goal

49 Wish otherwise

50 — glance

CLIO SOB ATTA

RUNT MAE NOON

ARCHDUKE TENT

BEHEAD TRADES

— RUG SARA

MAL BEN MENSA

CLEF DIP SCAM

VIGIL PAZ EXT

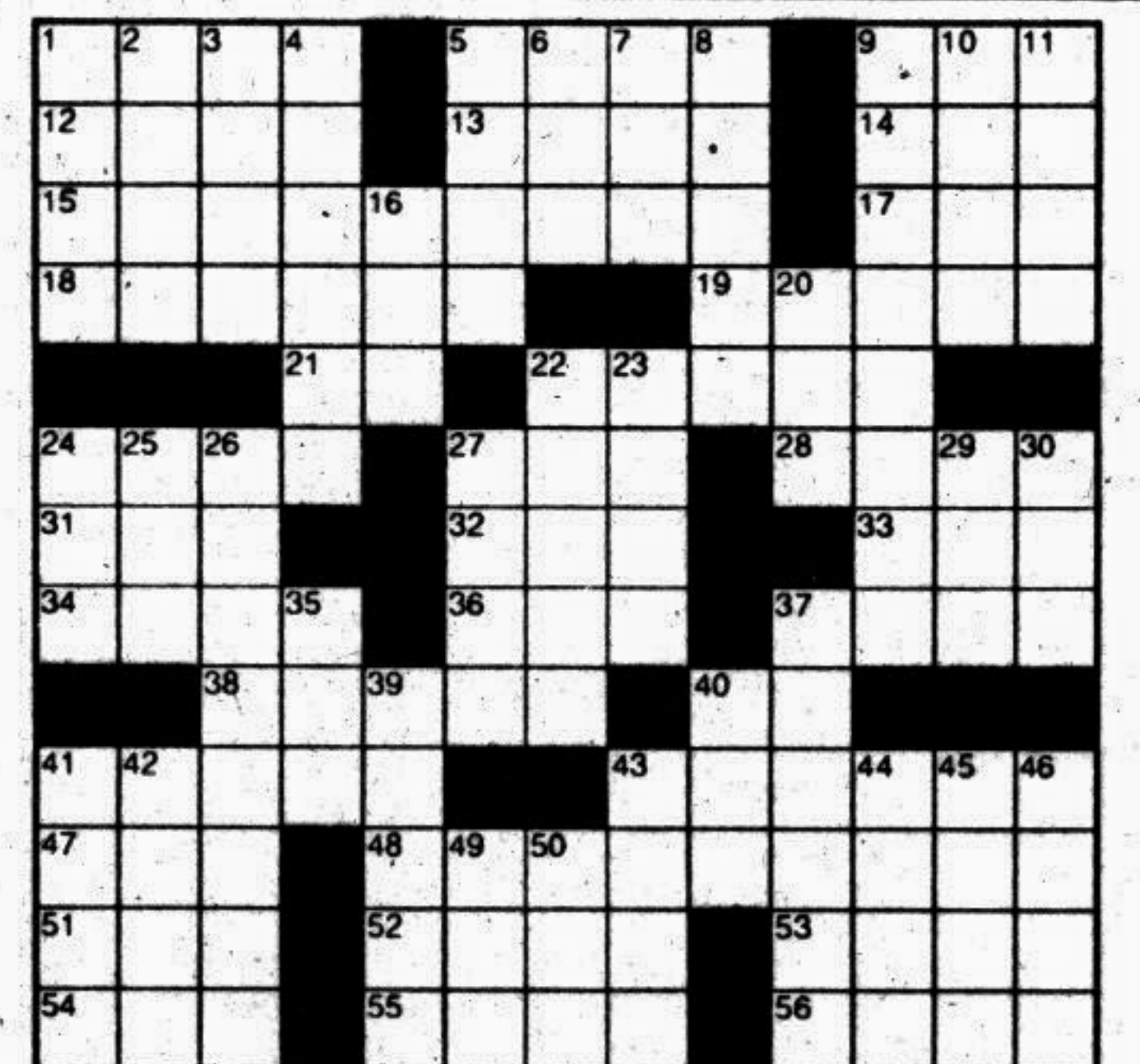
— AGAR ROD

WATERUS FOOTWORK

— AGAR ROD

FREE LIT ESAL

TOSS ELS LOPS



CRYPTOQUIP

C D U Q X D G B D R P

G U R T G X Q V G R U D V G P P O V D A

O P Q S G Q Q S D T R X A

U W C W V D R X X G

Yesterday's Cryptogram: IF A BEGINNER GIVES A PARTY, IT MAY HAVE A HOST OF PROBLEMS.

Today's Cryptogram clue: O equals U

The Cryptogram is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.