

Luckless day for DMFA

Sports Reporter

The Dhaka Metropolitan Football Association (DMFA) organisers of the ongoing DMFA Cup football tournament, had another luckless day at the negotiation table as Abahani Krira Chakra, who had already announced their decision to stay out of this year's meet on grounds of gross irregularities regarding the tournament schedule, not only refused to back down but added another dimension to what they termed a legitimate reason for their abstention.

In a press release issued yesterday, the Dhanmondi outfit, one of the superpowers of the domestic football league, reiterated their demand to do away with the behind the curtain string-pulling by a known quarter which has vitiated the atmosphere in country's soccer arena.

Abahani's decision might leave the organisers with the only option of postponing the tournament although the DMFA officials, who adjourned the talks until 5 pm tomorrow, in what seemed to be an effort to buy some time, implied their determination to continue with their bid to cajole Abahani into reconsidering their stance. However, they made it clear that in the case of Abahani's negative response they might have to consider the option of calling the meet off but added such a decision wouldn't be made until tomorrow's meeting is over.

Div II qualifying cricket results

Sports Reporter

Kurmitola Samaj Kalyan and Agrami Sangsad won their respective Lotus Kamal Second Division qualifying matches despite a short-lived heavy downpour that interrupted the matches at different city venues yesterday.

At the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Mugda Cricketers chasing a revised target of 76 runs in 15 overs due to rain, could muster 71 runs for six wickets.

Earlier, sent in to bat first, Agrami Sangsad scored a moderate 177 for six wickets in the stipulated 35 overs with Mizanur Rahman hitting an excellent 52.

His 55-ball innings included five hits to the fence. He was followed by Ariful Haq (31) and Badrul, who remained not out on 20.

In the other match of the day at the Jagannath Hall ground, Kurmitola Samaj Kalyan earned a facile seven-wicket win over Jupiter KC.

Batting first Jupiter were bundled out for a paltry 88 in 26.3 overs. Opener Rana, who retired hurt and Lebu were the top scorers with 19 each while Moin, who scored 11 was the other double-digit contributor for the losers.

Lafit was the most successful among the Kurmitola bowlers finishing with an excellent analysis of 5.3-1-7-3. Wasim and Tito claimed two wickets each. But Tito, who taken hammered an unbeaten half century, gave only two runs in his two overs.

Chasing 89 runs for victory Kurmitola reached the target in 20.4 overs losing three wickets.

Opener Tito, who almost singlehandedly guided his team to an easy win remained unbeaten on 55 at the kill. His 56-ball unconquered innings included eight boundaries and a huge sixer.

Imran keeps fanning embers



ISLAMABAD, May 10: Pakistan's former Test captain Imran Khan has reignited the ball-tampering controversy by saying he had used the practice himself, reports AFP.

Imran said the practice is as old as the game itself and said it was widely carried out in England without anyone ever being called a cheat.

"Ever since cricket has been played ball-tampering within limits has been part of the game," Imran said in a statement released Monday.

He added that he did not know a seam bowler who "has not picked the seam at some occasion." Imran admitted he had occasionally tampered with balls.

"Indeed if one looks at the videos of all great fast bowlers of my time every now and then the camera would catch the same being lifted."

"In Australia and the West Indies, where sub-protection creams re-used, often bowlers mix the cream with their sweat on the ball," he said.

"Lifting of the seam which is the most common form of ball-tampering," he said, adding that it "has been taking place in England without anyone ever being called a cheat."

He expressed "surprise" that British tabloid journalists "only discovered" about ball-tampering during the 1992 series between Pakistan and England when Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis "destroyed" England.

"It suddenly" became the "biggest issue" in the game with the Pakistani bowlers accused of cheating.

"I would like the English journalists to ask not just the top English pace bowlers but any renowned ones in the world whether they have ever either lifted the seam, scratched the ball or applied some substance on the ball."

"Their answers as long as they are honest will be a revelation for these journalists," Imran said.

Imran's statement came as British newspapers seized on a ball-tampering admission by

the Pakistan star. In an extract from an authorised biography "Imran Khan" due to be published later this month, Imran refers to a county match between Sussex and Hampshire back in 1981.

"The ball was not deviating



IMRAN KHAN

at all. I got the 12th man to bring on a bottle top and it started to move around a lot."

"I narrated the incident as something that I considered to be funny during a first-class career that extended for 23 years. The incident happened as the match was petering out, the wicket was lifeless, and I

was young and bored. "Afterwards, the ball began to swing and we bowled out Hampshire—through the result did not matter as both teams were not in contention."

Imran wrote that he was concerned that "this solitary incident might be taken as something that was repeated by me on other occasions."

"Apart from this being completely untrue, I would also hate this to be in example to up-and-coming cricketers. To the youngsters who look upto me I want to say that, during my career, I tried my best to play the game by the rules."

"I regret having disclosed this one silly incident which now is like a black spot on my career—even though it was narrated as a jest."

As for lifting the seam, Imran said it "part of cricket worldwide" and "particularly prevalent in England."

The practice "was always considered part of the game, not only by the players but by officials too, and only if bowlers lifted the seam to such an extent that it was sitting up and you could hurt yourself, would an umpire warn a bowler."

"I never saw a bowler reprimanded, or anything like it."

Aussie tour itinerary

MELBOURNE, May 10: The Australian Cricket Board Tuesday released the itinerary for the Australian team's tour of Pakistan, reports AP.

Australia will play three Tests in Pakistan, as well as a triangular limited-overs series against Pakistan and South Africa.

The Australian squad for the tour to Sri Lanka and Pakistan has not yet been announced.

The itinerary is:

- Sept 23-25: Three-day match, at Rawalpindi.
- Sept 28-Oct 2: 1st Test, Pakistan v Australia, at Karachi.
- Oct 5-9: 2nd Test, Pakistan v Australia, at Rawalpindi.
- Oct 12: Australia v South Africa, at Faisalabad.
- Oct 14: Pakistan v Australia, at Multan.
- Oct 16: Pakistan v South Africa, at Karachi.
- Oct 18: Australia v South Africa, at Gujranwala.
- Oct 20: Pakistan v South Africa, at Rawalpindi.
- Oct 22: Pakistan v Australia, at Rawalpindi.
- Oct 24: Australia v South Africa, at Peshawar.
- Oct 26: Pakistan v Australia, at Lahore.
- Oct 28: Pakistan v South Africa, at Faisalabad.
- Oct 30: Final of limited-overs tournament, at Lahore.
- Nov 1-5: 3rd Test, Pakistan v Australia, at Lahore.

Septet in the lead

Sports Reporter

Khandaker Kayas Hasan of Bangladesh Ansars along with six other players maintained their winning run in the qualifying meet for the 20th national chess championship after the third round at the chess room of National Sports Council yesterday.

Saifuddin Labiu of BTMC, Ruhul Kuddus of Dhaka University, Abdullah of Dhaka Metropolitan, Khorshed Alam of Panchagarh, Zahid Chawdhury of Manikganj and Mohon Chowdhury of Mymensingh were the other six players leading the table with full three points.

Ziaur Rahman and Tahmidur Rahman of Bangladesh Biman along with six other players, shared the second spot with two and a half points each.

Overtures for superstars

TOKYO, May 10: Japanese soccer's governing body is calling on the country's immigration authorities to allow disgraced Argentine stars Diego Maradona and Claudio Caniggia to play in a three-nation tournament here later this month, reports Reuters.

Tournament organisers said on Tuesday that the Japan Soccer Association was appealing to the ministries concerned to issue entry visas to Maradona and Caniggia.

The two players, who have both served bans from the sport recently because of cocaine abuse, are in a 23-man Argentina squad for World Cup warm-up matches.

Japan takes a strict attitude towards foreigners who abuse drugs and in the past has refused visas to people with records of drug offences.

Foreign Ministry officials declined to comment on the issue of entry permission for the two players, who were scheduled to take part in the Kirin Cup tournament starting on May 22.

"We are waiting for a reply (from the authorities) on the two players. But we are worried they could make a final decision at the very last minute," a tournament official said.

Argentina will play Japan in Hiroshima on May 22 and France in Kobe on May 26.

Aussie Olympians get cash boost

CANBERRA, May 10: The Australian government announced Tuesday it will give 135 million Australian dollars (24.5 million US) to help train the country's athletes for the 2000 Olympic Games to be hosted by Sydney, reports AFP.

The Olympics cash was announced by treasurer Ralph Willis in his 1994-95 budget speech here.

Starting with 20 million dollars in Tuesday's budget, the allocation will rise to 25 million dollars a year from 1997-98 to the Games themselves.

The money is in addition to 52 million dollars the Australian Olympic committee has pledged to raise to help potential team members get experience in international competition.

As host of the 2000 Games, Australia automatically qualifies for sports in which it has not yet competed at Olympic level, including volleyball and handball.

WTa's top 20

ST PETERSBURG, Florida, May 10: Leading women's rankings issued by the WTA Tour on Monday:

1. Steffi Graf (Germany)
2. Arantxa Sanchez Vicario (Spain)
3. Conchita Martinez (Spain)
4. Martina Navratilova (US)
5. Jana Novotna (Czechoslovakia)
6. Gabriela Sabatini (Argentina)
7. Kimiko Date (Japan)
8. Mary Joe Fernandez (US)
9. Natalia Zvereva (Belarus)
10. Lindsay Davenport (US)
11. Andre Huber (Germany)
12. Mary Pierce (France)
13. Magdalena Maleeva (Bulgaria)
14. Zina Garrison Jackson (US)
15. Helena Sukova (Czech Republic)
16. Sabine Hack (Germany)
17. Sabine Appelmans (Belgium)
18. Amanda Coetzer (South Africa)
19. Nathalie Tauziat (France)
20. Naoko Swamatsu (Japan)

Crowe comes to Kiwi rescue



TAUNTON, England, May 10: New Zealand cricket manager Geoff Howarth described his team's batting as "inept" after a stunning collapse against Somerset on Monday, reports Reuters.

Howarth's broadside came after the New Zealanders crashed from 141 for one to 182 all out in their first innings on the third and final day.

New Zealand had to follow on 182 behind immediately after lunch but an unbeaten 102 from Martin Crowe ensured they did not suffer any further embarrassment, the match ending in a draw with the touring side on 247 for two.

Howarth said: "Our batting this morning was inept—there is no other word for it. We did things we have been trying to eradicate by talking about it during the whole of the last five months."

Crowe's century, against the county for whom he played in 1987, took him only 76 deliveries and contained two sixes and 16 fours, though his innings was partly played against occasional bowlers Andy Hayhurst and Mark Lathwell.

Pakistan leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed, whose spell of five wickets for eight runs in 34 balls had accelerated New Zealand's collapse, was given only 11 overs in the second innings while England pace-man Andy Caddick was used sparingly.

However, Crowe's hundred, following his first innings of 56, at least showed the knee trouble he has been struggling to overcome for the last six months has apparently not affected his batting.

Howarth said: "With him in the side we have a much more solid look and he's obviously a

very important member of our side. "He's more at ease with himself now, having scored some runs, because he did have some self-doubt about his ability to last following his six-month lay-off and his knee problems."



MARTIN CROWE ... 102 n.o.

"But overall we have not played very well in this match. Our bowling has been hit by injury and I just hope that our first innings batting display makes our players realise that certain things have to start sinking in."

With the two one-day matches against England being played next week, the New Zealanders are hoping pace bowlers Danny Morrison and Dion Nash can play in the three-day match against mid-dlesex starting on Thursday.

Morrison has not played on tour so far because of groin in-

jury, while Nash has been suffering from a side strain.

There is also a cloud over seamer Simon Doull's tour future because he has a shoulder problem.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the third and final day of the cricket match between Somerset and New Zealand on Monday:

SOMERSET: First innings 36 4-8 declared (R. Turner 104 not out, A. Hayhurst 84, Fletcher 51)

NEW ZEALAND: First innings (Overnight 131-1)

Young c Turner b Van Troost	5
Poocock c Trump b Rose	61
Crowe lbw b Rose	56
Fleming b Mushtaq	13
Gretbatch c Turner b Mushtaq	8
Thomson b Mushtaq	3
Parore not out	11
Larsen c Mushtaq b Caddick	0
Hart c Turner b Caddick	0
Davis c Lathwell b Mushtaq	0
Pringle c Rose b Mushtaq	0
Extras: (b-13, lb-6, nb-6)	25
Total:	182

Fall of wickets: 1-13; 2-141; 3-146; 4-162; 5-163; 6-168; 7-173; 8-173; 9-174.

Bowling	O	M	R	W
Caddick	19	3	44	2
Van Troost	15	4	18	1
Rose	14	2	36	2
Mushtaq	16	2	57	5
Trump	2	1	8	0

NEW ZEALAND: Second innings

Young c Caddick b Hayhurst	41
Poocock retired hurt	51
Crowe not out	102
Fleming b Hayhurst	6
Gre batch not out	44
Extras: (lb-3)	3
Total: (for two wickets)	247

Fall of wickets: 1-95; 2-129

Bowling	O	M	R	W
Caddick	6	1	16	0
Van Troost	5	1	13	0
Mushtaq	11	4	38	0
Rose	6	0	22	0
Trump	16	2	76	0
Hayhurst	10	1	47	2
Lathwell	5	2	32	0

Result: Match drawn.

Lara in cracking form



LONDON, May 10: Brian Lara, who is scoring runs in Bradmanesque proportions and at an average to match, stroked his third consecutive county championship century for Warwickshire on Monday, reports Reuters.

The West Indian, holder of the world record Test score of 375, made an unbeaten 120 against Leicestershire to follow his first innings of 106 as his adopted county forced a draw on the fourth and last day at Edgbaston.

Left-hander Lara, playing his first season in the English domestic game, marked his Warwickshire debut by scoring 147 in the championship match against Glamorgan.

With his 375 against England in the fifth and final Test in Antigua last month, it brought Lara's aggregate in his last four first-class innings to 748 at an average of 249.33.

The Trinidadian reached three figures off 141 balls during his second innings against Leicestershire and in total hit 22 boundaries, helping Warwickshire to hold out at 206 for seven after being set 285 to win in 57 overs.

Lara's West Indies Test teammate Curtly Ambrose had a burst of three wickets in 17 deliveries on his first championship appearance of the season for Northamptonshire.

Fast bowler Ambrose, whose triple strike against Glamorgan removed Adrian Dale, Matthew Maynard and Steve James, finished with four for 53 but rain thwarted Northamptonshire's

push for victory. Chasing a target of 301, Glamorgan held on to draw at 89 for seven after 58 overs had been lost to the bad weather.

Surrey, who have not won any of the four county competitions for 12 years, sustained their impressive start to the season as in-form England batsman Alec Stewart steered them to a 10-wicket victory



BRIAN LARA

over Lancashire at Old Trafford.

Stewart, who added an unbeaten 88 to his first innings of 126, and fellow opener Darren Bicknell (67 not out) surged to Surrey's target of 171 without being parted.

Surrey have now won their first two championship matches in addition to their opening limited overs games in the Benson and Hedges Cup and the Sunday League.

Essex also sealed their second championship success after overcoming dogged resistance from Durham opener Marks Saxelby (131) to win by 10 wickets at Stockton.

Durham, having followed on 248 behind, were dismissed for 285, leaving Essex the simple task of scoring 36 to complete their win.

Peter Moore had a match haul of eight catches to equal a Sussex wicketkeeping record before their game against Gloucestershire at Bristol ended in a tame draw.

Lara, the first batsman to score hundreds in each of his first three innings for Warwickshire, said: "This (second) innings was a bit different to the other centuries in that I was concentrating for most of the time in trying to keep the strike and save the game."

"But it gave me more pleasure than the century in the first innings. I was then a bit loose at times but this time I went out with things planned in my mind and was tighter."

"It's nice to be in the record books. There were a lot of expectations placed on me after the Test record and I hope I've not let people down so far."

STANDINGS

English county championship cricket standings after matches on Monday (tabulate under played, won, lost, drawn, batting bonus points, bowling bonus points, total points):

Surrey	2	2	0	0	7	8	47
Essex	2	2	0	0	5	8	35
Leicestershire	2	1	0	1	8	8	40
Gloucestershire	2	1	0	1	3	8	27
Warwickshire	2	1	0	1	6	5	37
Durham	2	1	1	0	4	6	30
Nottinghamshire	1	1	0	0	0	4	26
Hampshire	2	0	1	1	5	4	9
Derbyshire	2	0	1	1	3	5	8
Northamptonshire	2	0	1	1	4	2	6
Glamorgan	2	0	1	1	3	2	5
Somerset	1	0	1	0	1	4	5
Worcestershire	1	0	1	0	1	4	5
Kent	1	0	1	0	0	4	4
Lancashire	1	0	1	0	0	4	4
Middlesex	1	0	0	1	0	3	3
Sussex	1	0	0	1	0	2	2
Yorkshire	1	0	0	1	0	2	2

Hall's feat

WELLINGTON, May 10: New Zealander Rob Hall on Monday became the first Westerner to scale Mount Everest four times, reports AP.

It was his first expedition on the 8,848 metre (29,028 feet) peak since the death of his long-time climbing partner Gary Ball from a mountain-related lung illness last year.

Hall spoke to friends by telephone from the summit of Everest on Monday night (New Zealand time, Tuesday in Nepal).

He said he could see 215 miles (350km).

With the latest group of climbers to reach Mount Everest, the number of people who have scaled the Himalayan peak since Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay, a Sherpa, first reached it in 1953 rose to 544.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Poke

4 Mary's tag-along

8 Ayatollah's predecessor

12 Candle count

13 Rose's beau

14 Som-melier's suggestion

15 Damsel's situation

17 Skunk's shield

18 Involve

19 - Jima

21 Lassie

22 Be generous

26 Scoff at

29 Durocher

30 "Pup-petoon's producer George

31 Clark's cohort

32 Belittle, in modern slang

33 Big rig

34 Abby's sis

35 Hector's former

state?

36 Prear-ranges

37 Hell's Angels, e.g.

39 Bran source

40 Tittle

41 Shrimp (It.)

45 Bridget Fonda's aunt

48 Other woman

50 "Well"-financed org.

51 Hodge-podge

52 Part of RSVP

53 Exemplar of redness

54 Juror, sup-20 Court

posedly

55 Away from NNW

DOWN

1 Nephrite

2 Not "fer"

3 A-1

4 Cow catcher

5 - for Adano"

6 Wrong: pref.

7 In addition

8 React bobby-soxer style

9 Stashed

10 Year (Sp.)

11 The lady

16 Iberia's longest river

20 Court

Solution time: 28 mins.

DOOM MAIM GET

OGLE ULNA RAH

GRANDSLAM ARE

SENDAK IOONLY

EM BLEND

JOGS MAI SPAR

ERR UKE RYE

TEAK TED PEEP

NEVER MU

REDYE KARATE

IAM GRANDPRIX

OSA AUTO LONI

TIYS SEAT EAST

Summit

24 Domesticate

25 Yale students

26 Dieter's target

27 Actress Anderson

28 Sty cry

29 Pouter's protuberance

32 Spring-cleaning tool

33 Shankar's instrument

35 Paid player

36 Divisor

38 Oust

39 Davis of "Evening Shade"

42 Private dining salon?

43 Omegas' precursors

44 Man, for one

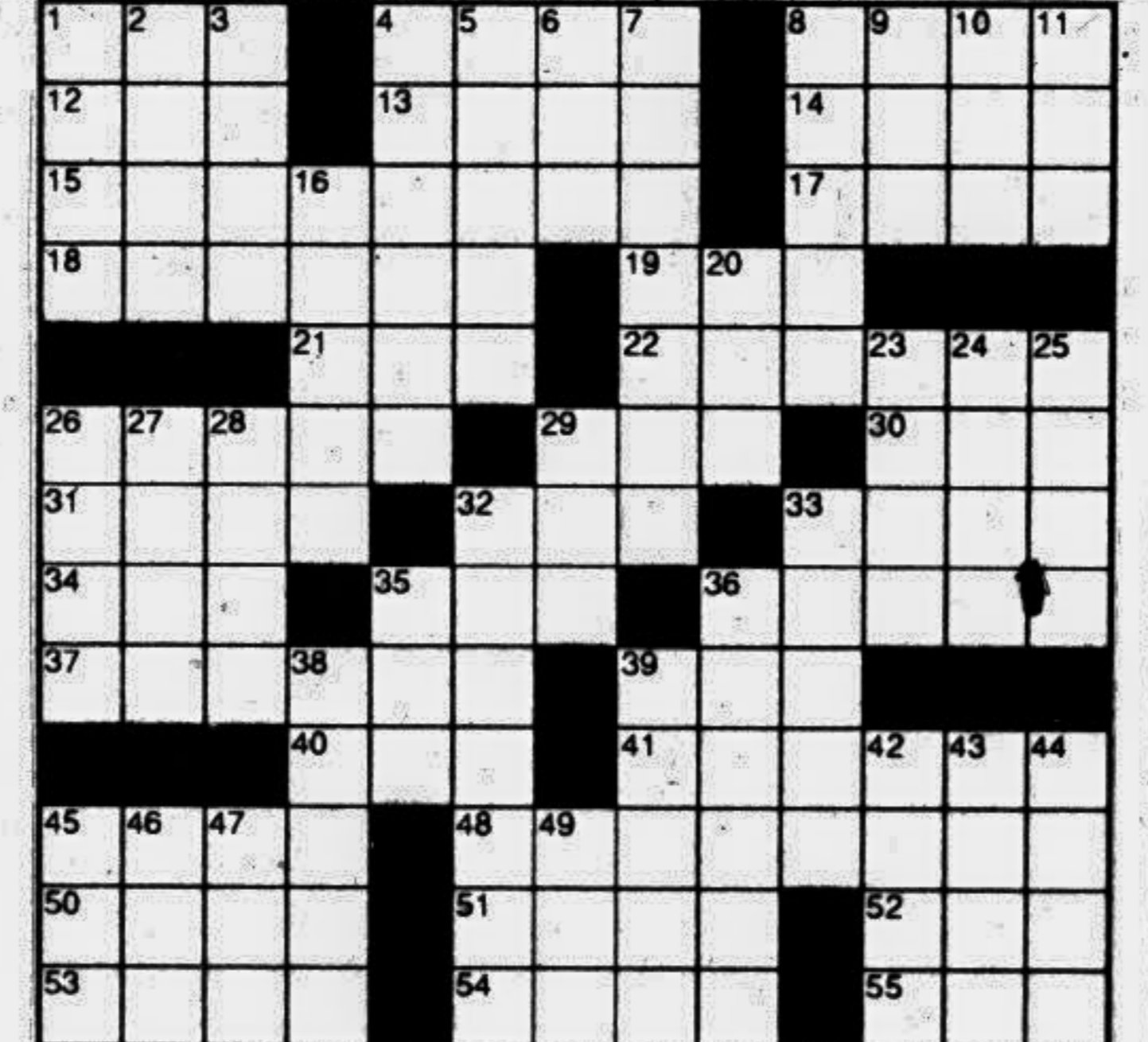
45 Piece of work

46 Gorilla

47 Born

49 1917

O'Neill drama



CRYPTOQUIP

Q A F N U C A F C E E K C H H

E C H W O A C K ' H L Q H W A C H H

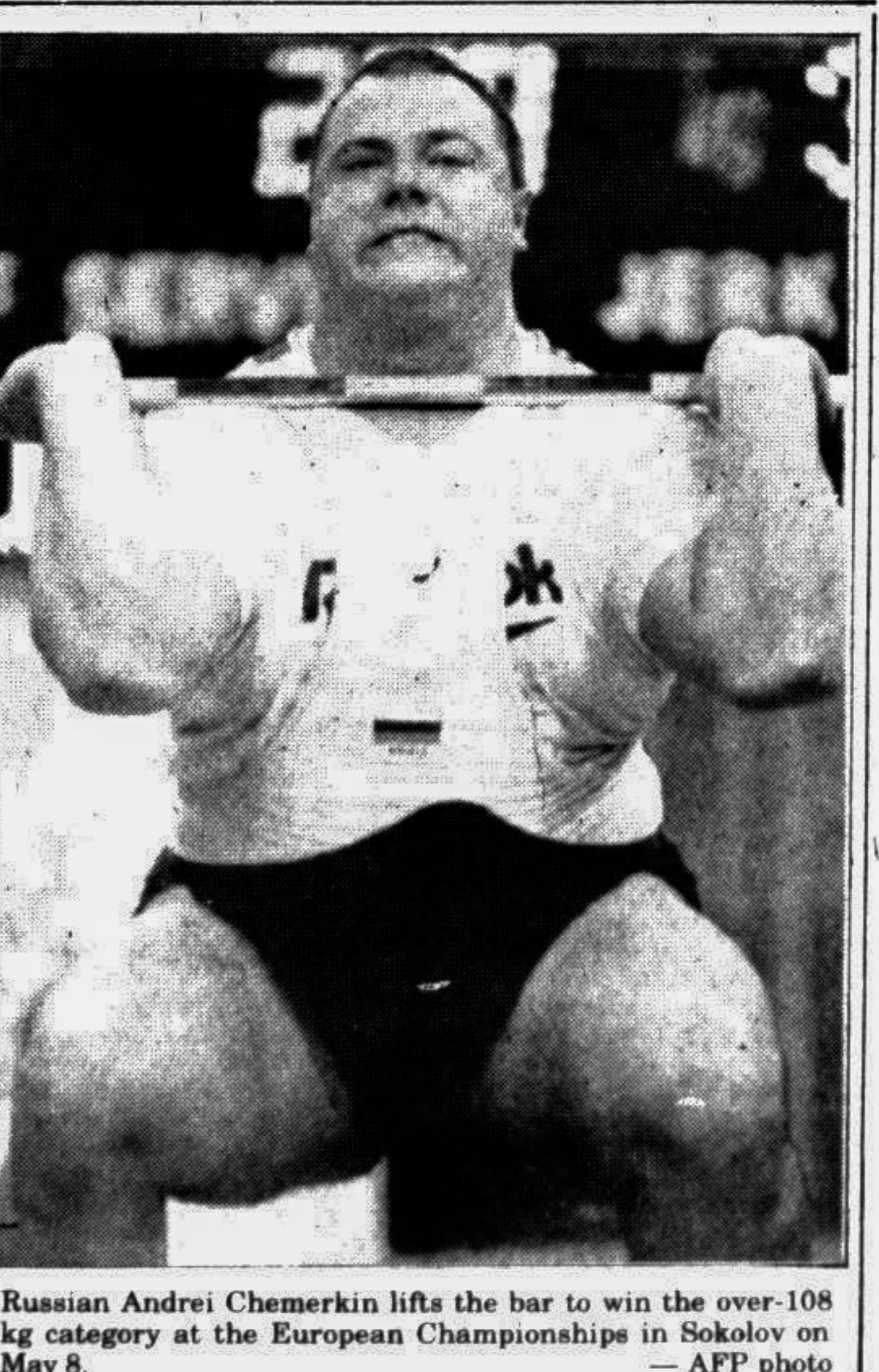
W H D N A O W A O L Z N

F D K C N E

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: ANIMAL TRAINER ASSURED US THAT THE MILD, GENTLE APE IS NO GORE-ILLA.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: A equals N

The Cryptoquip 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.



Russian Andrei Chemerkin lifts the bar to win the over-108 kg category at the European Championships in Sokolov on May 8.