

### Nat'l youth kabaddi final round May 26

Sports Reporter

The final round of the fifth national youth kabaddi championship jointly organised by the Bangladesh Kabaddi Federation (BKF) and the Narail Krira Sangstha will begin on May 26 at the Narail Stadium, says a BKF press release issued yesterday.

Eight teams — Dinajpur, Kurigram, Kishoreganj, Netrokona, Feni, Moulvibazar, Satkhira and hosts Narail — are taking part in the meet.

The teams have been asked to submit their players and officials lists for registration by May 20.

### Zia clings to lead

Sports Reporter

International Master Ziaur Rahman maintained a slender lead in the qualifying meet for the 20th national chess championship after the ninth round at the National Sports Council chess room yesterday.

Ziaur Rahman of Biman, who drew with Kalimullah Khan of Ansars in this round, raised his collection to seven and a half points in the eleven-round meet.

Team-mate FIDE Master Rezaul Huq and Abdullah Al Rakib of Narayanganj were following the table leader with seven points each.

Ten players collecting six and a half points held the third spot. They were: Syed Tahmidur Rahman and International Women's Master Rani Hamid of Biman, Kalimullah Khan and Khandaker Kayes Hasan of Ansars, Ali Amjad Mintu and Rashid Mizaid of Chittagong, Saifuddin Lablu of BTMC, Subal Chandra Roy and Hossein Arif of Dhaka Metropolis and Hasibul Hassan of Narayanganj.

### Div II qualifying cricket results

Sports Reporter

With bowlers dominating a rain affected day Mohammadpur Cricket Club, Mariner Youngs and Agami KC won their respective matches of the Lotus-Kamal Second Division qualifying cricket matches at different city venues yesterday.

At the Jagannath Hall ground, opener Rashed scored a polished half-century to guide his side Mohammadpur Cricket Club to a 25 run win over Star Plastic Industries.

Sent in to bat first, Mohammadpur scored a moderate 166 for nine wickets in the allotted 35 overs with opener Rashed hitting 50 off 76 balls.

In reply, Star Plastic were bundled out for 141 in 34.3 overs. Asad, who failed to get any support from the other end, remained not out on 43.

Crescent's new-ball bowler took three wickets for 18 runs.

On the western strip of the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Agami KC earned a hard-fought one-wicket win over Piberbagh Progoti CS.

Battling first, Piberbagh could muster 135 before being all out in 23.3 overs.

Faroque and Enayet the only twenty-plus scorers in the Piberbagh innings made 25 and 26 respectively.

Tipu, Imtiaz and Junaed the trio of Agami captured two wickets apiece. Needing 136 for victory, Agami reached the target in the last over with Sumon hitting the winning run.



MOHAMMEDANS QUARTET: The four Russian footballers (garlanded, standing) with their negotiator (sitting) pose together at the ZIA on their arrival yesterday afternoon.

## Russian quartet for MSC

Sports Reporter

Four Russian footballers arrived in the city yesterday to help local soccer giants Mohammedans Sporting Club gear up their fire power.

Zourab Koiaua, Vladimir Tehelokaua, Andrey Kazakov and Mickail Karataev accompanied by 'guardian' Alexander Nikulina reached Dhaka last afternoon by an Aeroflot flight.

Reigning Premier league champions Mohammedans are expected to register only one of the quartet today on the basis of showing in practice.

Three of the foreign quartet, whose average is 24, are strikers. Zourab Koiaua and Vladimir Tehelokaua reportedly play for one of the First Division teams in Russia's domestic soccer. Andrey Kazakov, the third of the striking trio, was alluded to be a Division Two player.

Mickail Karataev, who too is a First Division player, is the only midfielder in the pack.

While the black and whites have already got their share of foreigners to make their choices from, Abahani Krira Chakra, the other heavyweights of local football, are yet to have any of their aired foreigners.

Abahani, who have already employed former Iraqi World Cupper Samir Shakir as their coach are likely to recruit players from Iraq and as well as Russia.

The sky blues, who recently decided to come back to the DMFA Cup thus annulling their previous stand of abstaining from the season's curtain-raising meet alleging inconsistency on the part of organisers are unlikely to get any foreigners for their lone match of the DMFA Cup before the Eid holidays.

The ill-fated DMFA Cup, which came to a standstill after a tug of war between the organisers and two most popular clubs, awaits a resumption from tomorrow. In one of the two matches of the day Abahani who finished runners-up in last year's meet take on Farashganj from 7 pm onwards.

Holders Mohammedans, whose initial non-conformist attitude coupled with DMFA's pretension of sticking to the principle led to the now resolved crisis, are scheduled to take on the star-studded Mukhtodha Sangsad in the second of the two matches billed for May 19.

## European Cup final tomorrow

### Testing time for Barcelona

ATHENS, May 16: Soccer evangelist Johan Cruyff faces his greatest crusading challenge on Wednesday, preaching the gospel of attacking football to the unbelievers of Milan in the European Cup final, reports Reuters.

Rarely in soccer history has a match so embodied the two opposing creeds of how the game should be played as the final between Cruyff's swash-buckling Barcelona and the defenders of AC Milan.

Cruyff liberates his players with the simple message — go forth and multiply the goals.

Milan's Fabio Capello shackles them by forbidding seven of his men to cross the halfway line.

On the face of it the Catalans have everything going for them. A magnificent late run of 28 points from 15 matches landed them their fourth successive Spanish title on Saturday.

Temperamental Bulgarian striker Hristo Stoichkov, no more eloquent than a Trappist monk when off form, is gushing with goals at the moment and his enigmatic Brazilian partner Romario is blossoming again after a bleak spell.

"I am totally convinced we will beat Milan," said Romario. Even if the subtle persuasive powers of their intricate soccer should fail, Barcelona can still call in the heavy artillery to settle the argument once and for all.

Dutchman Ronald Koeman, a defender whose instincts incline him to execute rather than take prisoners, is Barcelona's top scorer in the European Cup this season with eight goals, nearly all from his terrifying cannon-ball free kicks.

Two years ago Koeman gave Barcelona their first European title with an extra time thunderbolt to beat Sampdoria in the final.

The thought that Barcelona have bagged 45 goals in their last 15 league games, compared with Milan's total of 36 in their entire 34-game season, would be enough to make any team nervous.

Milan's buttress is also undeniably weakened by the suspensions of central defensive pair Franco Baresi and Alessandro Costacurta.

But beating Capello's Milan is anything but a formality.

Marseille managed it last year when Basile Boli snapped up his teams one real chance of the final, but the French club are the only side to have beaten Milan in Europe in the past six years.

Ironically, the Milan side which won the European Cup under Arrigo Sacchi in 1989 and 1990 used to be spoken of in the same awed admiration as Cruyff's Barcelona.

But that was when the Dutch trio of Marco Van Basten, Ruud Gullit and Frank Rijkaard were lighting up the firmament.

Capello, to be fair, does not have the same majestic talents at his disposal, but nor does he have Sacchi's love of flair and style.

French striker Jean-Pierre Papin, one of the most gifted goal scorers of his generation, is likely to be on the sidelines yet again and the delightfully skillful Montenegrin Dejan Savicevic has been sadly underused by the coach.

The policy which sends defensive midfielders Marcel Desailly and Demetrio Albertini on to the pitch with instructions to stay within their own half is not pretty but it is effective.

Milan conceded just 15 league goals last season as they picked up a third successive title and have let in only four in 21 games in the last two years of the European Cup.

And Barcelona beware. Only two weeks ago, adventurous Parma and stolid Arsenal met in the Cup Winners' Cup final. The bad guys won 1-0.

### Imran quits ICC post

LONDON, May 16: Former Pakistan captain Imran Khan has resigned from the cricket committee of the International Cricket Council following allegations from a former international teammate that he tampered with the ball, reports Reuters.

The Mail on Sunday newspaper quoted Younis Ahmed as saying Imran had used vaseline, a bottle top and screw driver to roughen the ball.

Imran has admitted in a recent biography that he once used a bottle top to roughen the ball during an English county championship match.

In a column in today's Daily Telegraph, Imran said lifting the seam had been a common practice on the county and international circuit.

"Ball tampering was simply not an issue in those days and certainly not the mortal issue it is now considered to be."

"Of course what was not within acceptable limits was when once I used a bottle top in a county match."

"I regret having admitted to it as it might have given young cricketers the wrong idea. I want to stress again, contrary to what was alleged in the Mail on Sunday yesterday, that it was only once in my first class career that I did such a thing."

"However, as a result of that disclosure I am resigning from the ICC cricket committee."

The Telegraph quoted Imran as saying that Younis' allegations were "concocted nonsense."

"I intend to consult my lawyer when I reach London and to take legal action against his ridiculous and concocted story," Imran said.

### Ranatunga faces the music

COLOMBO, May 16: Former Sri Lankan cricket skipper Arjuna Ranatunga is to face an inquiry into his refusal to go to last month's Sharjah tournament, reports AFP.

Ranatunga, 30, is to be charged with misconduct at a Sri Lankan Cricket Board executive committee meeting on May 30, officials said today.

The Board has also advised national selectors not to include Ranatunga in the pool for Pakistan's tour in July until the inquiry is completed.

However, at a meeting Sunday, the executive committee decided not to punish three other cricketers for withdrawing from the 14-man squad for the six-nation Australasia Cup in Sharjah.

Ranatunga, spinner Muttiah Muralidharan, pace bowler Pramodya Wickramasinghe and batsman Dulip Samarawera pulled out from the tour in protest over the exclusion of vice-captain Aravinda de Silva from the squad.

The executive committee said Ranatunga failed to provide a satisfactory explanation to the executive committee over his conduct as captain, officials said.

The Cricket Board is particularly angry because Ranatunga refuses to apologise.

"The other three got away with a warning because each of them made a qualified apology. But Ranatunga is sticking to his guns," an official who attended the executive committee meeting said.

Ranatunga, a veteran Test all-rounder, said he withdrew from the Sharjah tour because he could not accept the result of a fitness test that led to his deputy's exclusion from the squad.

Opening batsman Roshan Mahanama led Sri Lanka in place of Ranatunga in Sharjah.

### Elina's double crown

Sports Reporter

Elina clinched the doubles crown in the Open Summer badminton tournament after beating her rival Juthi in the women's singles final in straight sets at the NSC wooden floor gymnasium yesterday.

Defending national champion Elina, who had earlier won the doubles title paring with Momo on Saturday, earned a cakewalk 11-0, 11-2 win over her opponent Juthi to retain her singles title. Elina won the singles title of the last Summer badminton meet too held in 1990.

In the men's singles, Sarwar was declared champion after his opponent Sumon pulled his thigh muscle in the third and deciding set.

Sumon, who won the first set 15-12, was leading the third set 14-12 before being forced to retire by the injury.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain gave away the prizes.

### Connors beats Kriek

LAS VEGAS, May 16: Jimmy Connors defeated Johan Kriek 6-2, 6-7 (7-3), 6-2 Sunday to win the Las Vegas stop on the 35-and-over Champions Tour, reports AP.

## Taylor, next Aussie captain?

SYDNEY, May 16: Mark Taylor is not favourite to be named this week to succeed Allan Border in the toughest job in Australian sport, reports AFP.

Taylor has been their apparent to the Australian cricket captain for the past two years. He is not the only candidate, but it would be a major shock for the selectors not to pick the 29-year-old New South Wales batsman.

Centretre has framed a market with Taylor at 1-3 favourite. Steve Waugh 2-1, Ian Healy 10-1 and David Boon 15-1.

"It would be a major turnaround if Taylor wasn't chosen as captain after being groomed for the last couple of seasons as Border's successor," Centretre spokesman Wayne Cross said Monday.

Following the decision of 38-year-old Border to retire after a world record 156 Tests last week, everyone has been talking about Taylor as the man to lead Australian cricket into a new era.

It won't be easy though. Leading the Australian cricket team reduced Kim Hughes to tears and even Border once threatened to resign from the most prestigious position in this sports-oriented nation.

The Australian Cricket Board is expected to announce the new captain, and his deputy, on Thursday or Friday. The make-up of the Australian team to tour Sri Lanka and Pakistan from September will also be revealed. England visit after that and there is also the World Cup in 1995.

Taylor, 29, who has led Australia in nine limited-over internationals winning six one-day matches, is likely to offer a more co-operative approach to the team captaincy.

For all Border's unparalleled deeds — Test cricket's greatest scorer with 11,174 runs, spiced with a record 156 catches and 93 matches as captain — critics pointed to his questionable communication skills, sharp mood swings and negative Test strategies.

Taylor is untried in the pressure-cooker demands Test level, but he is calm, level-headed with tactical flair. When required he can take a hard-line with players.

Affable, he is nicknamed "Tubby" by fellow players. Taylor has performed impressively on the international stage.

In 54 Tests, Taylor, the left-handed opening batsman has accumulated 4,275 runs at an average of 46.97 with 12 hundreds.

His only flaw would appear to be his failure, in the selectors' eyes, to nail down a spot in the one-day team with some pointing to his labouring scoring rate at the start of innings.

But that is outweighed by his redeeming qualities. He is liked and respected by teammates, he handles himself well at official functions, he is articulate and appears to be held in high regard by cricket officials.

David Boon, the country's fourth highest run-getter in Tests behind Border, Greg Chappell and Donald Bradman, is the experienced core of the team with 89 Test appearances, but the Tasmanian player will be 34 next season and cannot be considered a long-term proposition.

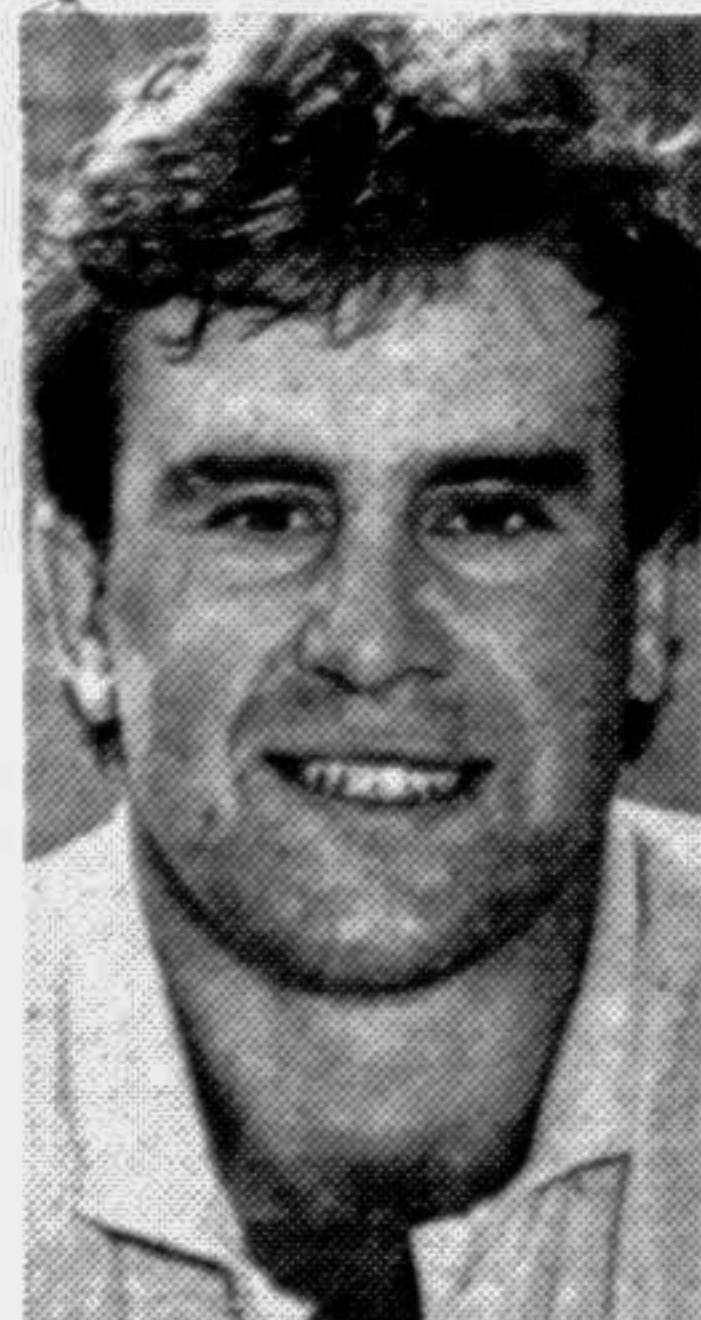
Taylor's state teammate Steve Waugh, who headed the Australian batting averages in the three Test series against New Zealand and South Africa home and away last season, is a plausible candidate.

Waugh, the twin brother of upper order batsman Mark, is regarded by teammates as the cricket brain of the seasons and approaching 29 looms as a definite contender.

Waugh, a brilliant one-day performer, has played 65 Tests scoring almost 3,500 runs at a healthy average of 43.68 with seven centuries.

Queensland wicketkeeper Ian Healy, recently turned 30, has the drawback of his strained past relations with umpires. His cause could be hindered at time when the 'ACB are sensitive about player behaviour in the wake of the Shane Warne-Merv Hughes incidents in South Africa earlier this year.

But if Waugh is disappointed in the captain's stakes he will still be a strong contender with Healy to be Taylor's vice captain.



MARK TAYLOR

## Gough celebrates in style

LONDON, May 16: Paceman Darren Gough celebrated his inclusion in England's squad for the one-day series against New Zealand with a four-wicket haul for Yorkshire in the opening round of the Sunday league competition, reports Reuters.

Both Gough, with four for 20, and left-arm spinner Paul Grayson (four for 25) collected personal competition bests as Glamorgan were swept out for 137 in 39.1 overs, their last nine wickets falling for 42 in 85 deliveries.

It was a completely one-sided affair as last season's champions were beaten by nine wickets with Yorkshire reaching 139 for one from 36.2 overs.

When Yorkshire batted, openers Martyn Moxon and David Byas strolled along with Byas completing his 50 from 83 balls and Moxon taking eight deliveries longer.

They put on 126 together before Byas was dismissed for 71. Moxon was unbeaten on 55.

There was an equally one-sided match at New Road where Australian Tom Moody continued his triumphant return to one-day cricket in England as Worcestershire crushed Gloucestershire by 10 wickets.

After making an unbeaten 65 in a midweek win at Durham in the Benson and Hedges Cup, the tall all-rounder smashed 78 not out off only 67 balls.

Moody hit 12 fours and finished the match by driving off spinner Martyn Ball over long-off for his second six which took Worcestershire to a winning 141 without loss. Tim Curtis was unbeaten on 46.

Moody had earlier played an important role in restricting Gloucestershire to 135 for seven, taking two for 20 in an eight-over new ball spell at a British medium pace.

West Indian opener Phil Simmons tore apart the Somerset attack as Leicestershire eased to victory at Grace Road by eight wickets.

Simmons took 95 minutes and hit 10 fours in an aggressive 72 before he suffered a lapse in concentration and was caught on the cover boundary.

He was ably supported by James Whitaker, who ended the game with a straight four down the ground to finish 44 not out.

The visitors had earlier made 168 for seven in their 40 overs, with Graham Rose top scoring on 36.

## Aussies to fill the void

SYDNEY, May 16: Australia's national team will make a rush trip to JAPAN to replace Argentina in next week's Kirin Cup football tournament, the Australian Soccer Federation (ASF) announced Monday, reports AFP.

ASF chief executive Ian Holmes said an approach had been received from the Japan Football Association which offered to pay all expenses for the Australian team.

Australia's late invitation materialised after the Japanese government refused entry into their country of controversial Argentine star Diego Maradona because of past drugs convictions.

Argentina, a World Cup finalist in the United States next month, pulled out of the tournament in protest.

"We indicated to the Japan Football Association today that we didn't want to see them in trouble and were prepared to fill the vacancy," said Holmes.

"Coach Eddie Thomson is putting together players who are available and will be quickly looking for others prepared to participate."

"We have to work quickly to get entry visas and also to give the squad some days together because the opening match is against Japan on Sunday followed by France on May 26."

Thomson will have the benefit of reasonably fit players from national league champions Adelaide city who beat England's Sheffield United 3-0 in Adelaide on Sunday.

"We want to work very closely with Japan because we see them as the emerging force in Asian football," said Holmes.

The ASF has been trying to establish close ties with the Asian football region because of the possibility that world body, FIFA, would integrate Australia into the area for future World Cup qualifying rounds.

FIFA had discussed a proposal that an extra place would be given to Asia if the Oceania winner was included in the playoff rounds for the World Cup and Olympic Games.



Elina Begum (R) and Sarwar Hossain (L), the men's and women's singles champions of the Open Summer badminton tourney, which concluded at the wooden floor gymnasium of the NSC yesterday.

## AFWA in the offing

Sports Reporter

An association for Asian Football writers is likely to be formed soon.

The proposed Asian Football Writers Association (AFWA), a brainchild of two veteran football writers, Sokichiro of Japan and Azam Mahmood of Bangladesh, was warmly received during the AFC Congress in Malaysia recently.

AFC Secretary General, who referred to the lack of coverage around the region due to poor communication, welcomed the proposal while being interviewed by a Malaysian newspaper.

Experts said "the fog of poor information" would come to an end by the launching of AFWA in the region.

## Grasshopper Swiss Cup champs

BERNE, May 16: Joel Magnian scored twice as Grasshopper Zurich thrashed Schaffhausen 4-0 to win the Swiss Cup final for a record 18th time on Sunday, reports Reuters.

### CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Winnow

5 Pluto or

8 Criticism

12 Gardening

13 Foul up

14 Teased

17 Slimy

18 Brown

20 Compact

22 New baby,

26 Arthur

29 Pub

30 Recent

31 Actor-

32 Caldwell

33 Ollie's pal

34 Kvetch

35 Intention

36 Unescorted

37 Steinway

40 Skirt insert

41 Food for 5-

45 Pace

47 Listening

49 Reserve

50 Initial stake

51 Greek P

52 Otherwise

53 Just say no

54 — Fran-

55 Cisco

55 Oboist's

DOWN

1 Third place

2 Kansas

11 Crucial

19 Coffee

21 "Rocks"

23 Wynonna's

24 "Doctor

25 Finished

26 Fritz of

27 Gen.

28 They do

32 They're on

33 Drool

35 Fuss

36 Cross-

38 Staff

39 Rubber

42 Tree trunk

43 Mislay

44 Scratched

45 Hiatus

46 Actress —

48 Cry of

Solution time: 23 mins.

JFK DOS

MALI PARKS

PAPAL UNLIKE

STANDUPCOMEDY

TEN ASPEN TIE

GREY ACTS

BIPED BACHS

PASA LIME

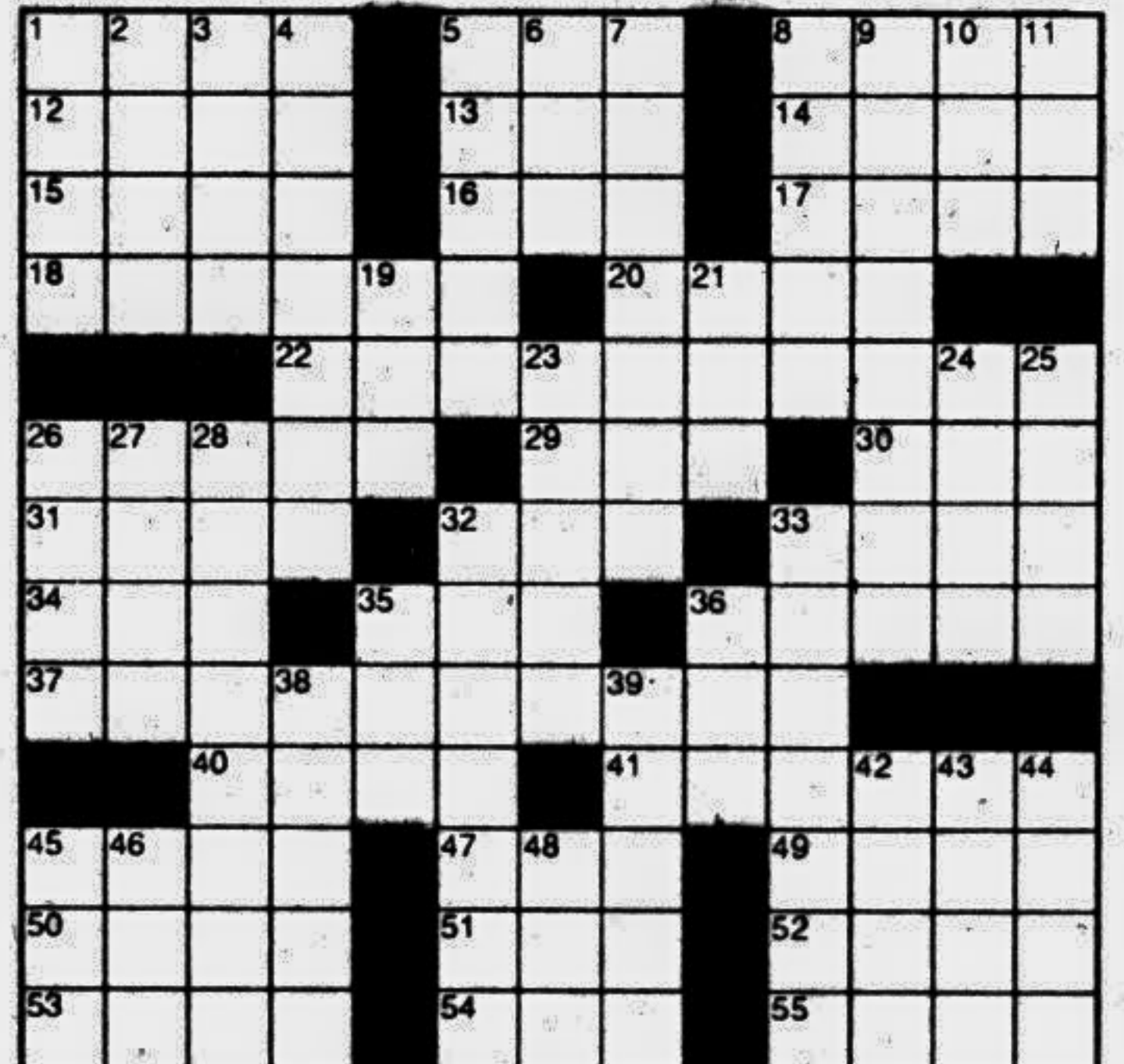
ASH GOUDA TSE

SITDOWNSTRIKE

SARONG EUBIE

ROSES UNIT

PER REA



CRYPTOQUIP

E B T W Q B E X M X B A O F L G W B  
F L K K F A Z E E B I  
T M E K B A F E W Q G B M J  
M E A O M I M K J

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WELL-TRAINED LION WAS OUR MODEST CIRCUS'S MANE ATTRACTION.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: E 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.