

Zia finishes unbeaten

Sports Reporter

International Master Ziaur Rahman of Biman finished top in the 11-round qualifying meet for the 20th national chess championship at the chess room of National Sports Council yesterday.

Zia, who remained unbeaten in the meet, beat teammate Rezaul Haq in the last round to collect 9.5 points and so qualify for the final round along with thirteen other players.

Last year's champion and runner-up Reefat-bin-Sattar and Ziaul Kader Tuhin along with the fourteen qualifiers will play in the final round. But the date is yet to be announced.

Pioneer league now June 15

Sports Reporter

The Pioneer football league which was scheduled to start on the first week of June has been rescheduled for June 15 because of the ongoing SSC examinations, said a DMFA press release issued yesterday.

The decision to defer was made during a meeting of the pioneer football league committee on Tuesday. The meeting also decided to open the Dhaka Metropolitan Football Association (DMFA) office from 6 pm to 8.30 pm for registration of players of the affiliated clubs.

Div II qualifying cricket results

Sports Reporter

Nawabbari SC, Friends Association and Dilkusha SC earned easy wins over in the Lotus-Kamal Second Division cricket qualifying meet at different city venues yesterday.

The originally scheduled 35-over-a-side matches were all curtailed to a considerable margins due to overnight rain.

Nawabbari who recorded a facile seven-wicket win over Purana Paltan Boys Club on the western strip of Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, reached the victory 148 in 26.4 overs for the loss of three wickets with Tayeb hitting an excellent 54.

Azam followed with 35 while Fazi remained not out on 18.

Earlier, sent in to bat first, Purana Paltan made 146 in 29.1 overs with Sumon contributing highest 35 for the losers.

Hasan, the most successful Nawabbari bowler, finished with four for 36.

At the Jagannath Hall ground Dilkusha SC beat Amatuer Eleven by five wickets in a reduced 20-over-a-side match.

Batting first, Amatuer could muster only 92 runs for the loss of seven wickets.

Shantanu and Rana, the only twenty-plus scorers for the vanquished made 24 and 23 respectively.

In reply, Dilkusha reached 93 in 18.5 overs for five wickets.

In the other match of the day on the eastern strip of Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium Friends earned an easy 52-run win over Raktim Sangha.

Batting first Friends Association scored a modest 134 for eight wickets in the allotted 25 overs with Noor making a swashbuckling 57.

Chasing 135 runs for victory, Raktim Sangha were skittled out for 82 runs in 20.1 overs with extras being the biggest contributor 25.

Referee beats Farashganj

Sports Reporter



Last year's runners-up Abahani Kira Chakra moved into the semi-final of the third Dhaka Metropolitan Football Association (DMFA) Cup with an extremely fortuitous 1-0 win over Farashganj at the Dhaka Stadium as the season's curtain-raising meet resumed yesterday after having been held in abeyance for eight days.

Zulfikar Mahmud Mintu, the new signing of the Dhanmondi outfit from Sadharan Bima scored in the injury time to give Abahani a win which they hardly deserved on an incessantly drizzly evening.

Referee Nasir Chowdhury whose highly controversial supervision virtually threw the wet blanket on Farashganj's

defender Mansur get away only with a yellow card whereas a marching order in accordance with the implementation of FIFA laws worldwide seemed to be the most logical reaction.

Abahani, who were donned in glazing yellow, could hardly be recognised and had it not been their faithful supporters, who thronged at the stadium braving steady drizzle, Farashganj could well have walked away with two points.

The young and inexperienced Abahani players struggled almost all through the match barring a brief period towards the end of the match.

Only when the veteran Sheikh Mohammed Aslam made his first appearance for Abahani this year that one of the top clubs of the country made their presence felt.

on May 20.

TEAMS

**ABAHANI KC:** Saidul, Imadul, Munna, Sohel, Mansur, Shamim, Zakir, Swapan, Gaus, Mintu and Sohel (Aslam).

**FARASHGANJ SC:** Dilu, Rouf, Babul, Selim, Santosh, Nazrul, Nayan, Liaquat, Monir, Jilani (Tipu), Liton and Ratan.

Referee: Nasir Chowdhury.

BU DRAW AGAIN

In the day's first match, Brothers Union drew goalless with Victoria SC held earlier at the same venue.

It was the second consecutive draw for the Federation Cup champions Brothers Union, who had also split points with Farashganj SC in their first match of this meet.

With this tame draw, Brothers' semifinal hopes have



Action from yesterday's second match in the DMFA Cup football tournament between Abahani KC and Farashganj at the Dhaka Stadium. Abahani, last year's runners-up, won 1-0 to reach the last four.

semifinal dream, however, gave Abahani their second successive victory following a 3-1 victory against Victoria Sporting Club in their tournament opener.

A controversial official with a legacy of incompetent handling yesterday robbed Farashganj a legitimate penalty when he awarded the eventual losers only a free kick outside the box when Mahmudul Huq, Liton, perhaps the pick of the players on the night, was tripped from behind inside the box in the 57th minute of the match.

The man in black who played a Premier league match between Brothers and Agrani Bank last year 15 minutes less than the stipulated time allowed the offending Abahani

On a sticky ground Farashganj powered by Liton's experience and imagination created several chances but poor shooting desisted them from taking a deserving but elusive lead.

Abahani too had their share of chances but most of their attempts were made from outside the danger zone and Farashganj custodian Dilu pulled off some fine saves to keep his side afloat till Zulfikar's angular left footed grounder from outside the box beat the tenacious custodian in the injury time with the stipulated period well over.

Abahani's skipper and prized defender Monem Munna got his second consecutive yellow card of the meet and will be out of action in the next match against Brothers Union

become uncertain. They will have to beat Abahani KC in their remaining match to confirm their semi-final berth.

As in their inaugural match, Brothers Union dominated most of the play today but poor marksmanship was their undoing.

TEAMS

**BROTHERS UNION:** Panir, Pijush, Moon, Mizan, Ruhul Amin, Rupu, Uttam, Bhutto, Ripon (Biplob), Bakhtiar and Ranjan (Mushtaq).

**VICTORIA SC:** Pannu, Aman, Wakil, Farhad, Iqbal, Shaheen, Shimul, Fayez Babu (Chandan), Rinku, Angur and Amin Khan.

Referee: Mozaffar Hossain.

TODAY'S MATCHES

B Boys vs Arambagh 4 pm  
MSC vs MuktiJoddha 6 pm

'Ball-tampering' all Greek to Kapil

NEW DELHI, May 18: India's world record breaking all-rounder Kapil Dev said Wednesday he did not know how to tamper with the ball nor was he aware of other bowlers practiced the controversial art, reports AFP.

Kapil Dev, taker of a record 434 wickets in Tests and 252 in one-day cricket, said he was ignorant of former Pakistani captain Imran Khan's claim that ball-tampering was a common practice.

"I've never done that," said the 35-year-old medium pacer who started his career in Pakistan in 1978. "If I had done that I would bagged 500 wickets by now."

"Frankly, we didn't know that a ball could be tampered with, so how could we do that?"

Kapil said teammates were baffled when Pakistani bowlers swung the old ball, but did not know it was done.

"We were surprised when they made the old ball wobble in the air specially after a drinks or lunch interval, but we could not put our finger on the real reason."

"If what Imran says is true, the concerned bowlers must get full credit for keeping it a secret for so long."

Ranatunga dropped

COLOMBO, May 18: Shri Lanka's selectors have left out Test captain Arjuna Ranatunga from a 31-man squad to start training for Pakistan's visit in July, cricket officials said Tuesday, reports AFP.

However, Ranatunga, who faces disciplinary action over his refusal to tour Sharjah last month, could be brought into the pool later if he is cleared of misconduct charges at a cricket board inquiry on May 30, an official said.

The Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka (BCCSL) executive on Sunday called on the selectors to drop Ranatunga from the national pool until the inquiry.

The BCCSL decided to take a tough stand against Ranatunga after he refused to apologise for pulling out of the Australasia Cup tournament. Ranatunga was angered by the exclusion of his deputy Aravinda de Silva from the side.

The board decided not to punish three others who also withdrew from the Sharjah squad for the same reason because they had tendered a "qualified apology" to the executive committee on Sunday.

Opening batsman Roshan Mahanama captained Sri Lanka at the Australasia Cup following Ranatunga's withdrawal.

Kiwis canter home

LEICESTER, England, May 18: New Zealand strolled to victory here on Tuesday in their final tour match before their first one-day cricket international, reports AFP.

The tourists, who face England in Birmingham on Thursday, were set a modest 170-run target by Leicestershire in the 55 overs match, and romped home by seven wickets with 21 overs to spare.

Afterwards New Zealand's delighted cricket manager Geoff Howarth said he was looking forward to ramming odds for the one-day international, which have England 11-4 on favourites for victory. Down the bookmakers' throats.

Howarth said: "The last two games against Northants and Leicestershire have been good performances."

"We have bowled tightly, fielded well and batted extremely well."

Fourth-wicket pair, Adam Parore and Stephen Fleming, shared a stand of 67 here in nine overs, hitting 57 runs off 35 balls after tea.

Left-handed Fleming made an unbeaten 35 off 27 balls with two sixes off Adrian Pierson, plus four fours.

The foundations were laid with and opening partnership of 71 in 17 overs between Blair Hartland and Bryan Young.

It was broken when young left-arm spinner Matthew Brimson had young smartly taken at slip by West Indian Phil Simmons for 36.

Pierson bowled Hartland and when Brimson had the Kiwis captain Ken Rutherford out for eight to make it 103 for three, there was a glimpse of a breakthrough for the county side. But Parore and Fleming slammed the door shut.

Leicestershire were bowled out for 169 in 53.3 overs after being put in, with left-arm spinner Matthew Hart bowling impressively to finish with three for 27 in 11 overs.

Paceman Danny Morrison confirmed his fitness with nine lively overs, which brought him two for 23 and Dion Nash, his new-ball partner, also picked up two wickets.



An AFP undated file photo shows the inside of the covered Detroit Silverdome Stadium in Pontiac, Michigan where some first round matches in the 1994 World Cup will be played.

Lara's life in stardom



LONDON, May 18: Little Brian Lara, the admirably composed young Trinidadian, who has made the quantum leap from sportsman to international celebrity, reports Reuter.

Life can never be the same for Lara since he broke Sir Garfield Sobers' 36-year-old world record with 375 against England last month.

But Lara, who bats number nine in a family of 11, has remained remarkably unaffected by the pressures of fame and the unremitting attention he has received from both public and media since arriving in England to play for Warwickshire in the county championship.

Last Monday, on one of his few spare days, Lara travelled to London to promote a range of clothing in connection with yet another sponsorship deal.

Standing in a London backstreet on a chilly spring day, clutching two scantily clad young women while a posse of photographers shout instructions, is far removed from the heady day in Antigua when Lara struck the boundary to surge past Sobers' previous record of 365.

To Lara, 25 this month, it is all part of the demands of modern day sport.

"It's part of the job," he said. "It's something you have to do. My life has changed totally. Cricket is a way of life in the West Indies, now I find I'm a celebrity here."

Lara can expect to accumulate wealth to match his fame, something Sobers was singularly unable to manage despite being most people's choice as the best cricketer ever to draw breath.

Although Sobers was a full-time player, jetting around the world to play for a breathtaking assortment of teams, large sums of money were simply not available for cricketers during the 1960s.

In a belated tribute during the recent Test series against England, the tiny island of Barbados staged a celebration of the 40th anniversary of

Sobers' Test debut to raise money for its favourite son and his family.

Despite the frenetic round of dinners, race meetings and calypso evenings, Sobers kept a close eye on the Tests and, in particular, in Lara.

"I said he was going to be the player the west Indies and the world has ever seen," Sobers recalled after Lara's record-breaking innings. "And people just laughed at me."

Lara is too young to have witnessed any of Sobers' dis-

niscient of Sobers, as too is the whipped pull shot.

Lara's footwork is quick and assured, either right forward or right back. And if the England team thought they detected a leg-side weakness they were signally unable to exploit it after he had some how survived a torrid opening spell from Devon Malcolm in the first Test.

What marks Lara as extraordinary, a sportsman touched by the gods, is his inner strength and certainty.

After scoring a record 715 runs in the domestic season, Lara quietly predicted he would make an individual score in excess of 300 against England.

Although he scored heavily throughout the series he left his epochal innings until the final Test in St John's when he came to the crease with West Indies in some trouble after losing both openers cheaply.

As Lara carefully and patiently played himself in, on-lookers began to sense they were in for something special as he gradually turned from watchful defence to flamboyant attack.

At the close of way, Lara had scored 164 but already people were beginning to talk about the record.

He batted through the second day and began the third on 320, after rising at 4 am to rehearse nervously in front of the mirror in his hotel bedroom.

A drive for four brought him equal with Sobers followed by a dismissive hook to the boundary off Chris Lewis which resounded round the cricketing world.

Cricket remains the one force to unite the disparate West Indian islands and Lara now carries a huge burden of expectation each time he steps to the wicket.

He has already scored three centuries for Warwickshire this season and hopes to help his adopted county to at least one domestic trophy.

"I want to win a trophy with Warwickshire," Lara said. "The people there have taken me to their hearts."



BRIAN LARA

tinguished career but he is fully appreciative of his support and encouragement.

"He has always taken an interest in me," Lara said.

"I was out cheaply in the fourth one-day international, he was on the phone within five minutes from Barbados."

"He has been very helpful. It has meant a lot to me, he has helped me in all sports of ways."

Lara has long evoked memories of Sobers, although at only 1.65 metres he is shorter and lighter than the majestic Barbadian.

He has the same lovely left-hander's flow and hits the ball ferociously hard off both back and front foot.

His back foot drive through mid-off, in particular, is remi-

Sampras subdues Kafelnikov



DUSSELDORF, Germany, May 18: Pete Sampras saw off the challenge of promising Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov to give the United States a winning 2-0 lead in the World Team Cup here Tuesday, reports AFP.

The match failed to live up to its billing as a contest between the current and future world number one as Kafelnikov showed little of the talent that has lifted him into the top 20 this year.

When they met at the Australian Open in January, Sampras squeezed through 9-7 in the 5th set, but he was never pressed on this occasion, winning 6-3, 6-3.

Both players held serve

He took an early break to lead 3-1 when Kafelnikov double-faulted and, although the Russian broke back in the seventh game, Sampras won his fourth break point to lead 5-3 and serve out the set.

Kafelnikov broke back for 1-1 in the second set when Sampras hit a backhand long. The American slipped into careless errors occasionally but covered the net very well and his greater consistency led to him breaking again for 3-2 and finally for the match.

Michael Stich survived an unpredictable encounter with Cedric Pioline, winning 6-4, 2-6, 6-2 to earn Germany an unassailable 2-0 lead over France.

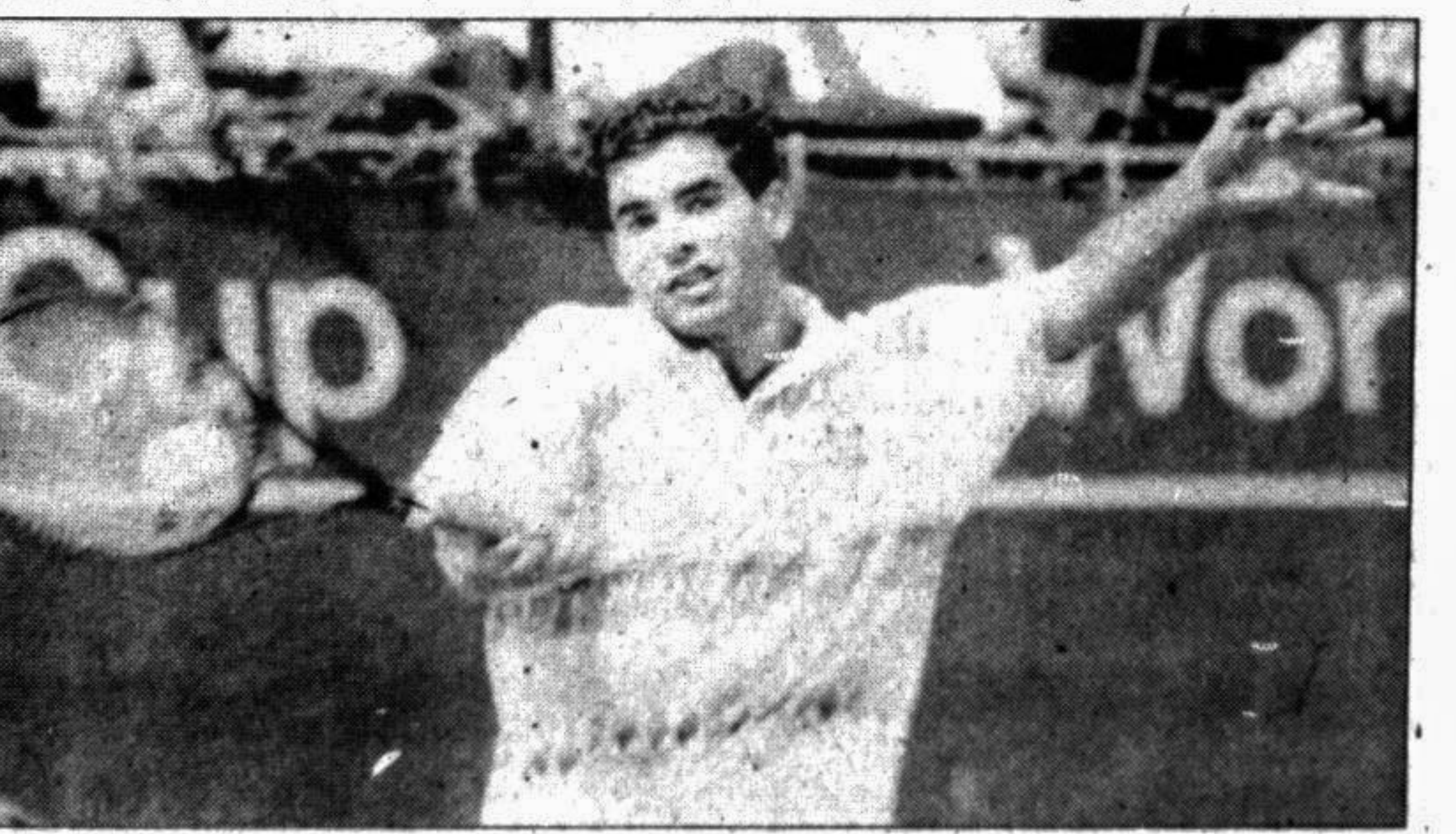
Both players held serve

with ease through the first nine game until Pioline, under no pressure, netted a forehand and put a backhand wide to hand Stich the set.

Pioline struck the ball with greater purpose in the second set while Stich completely lost his way, taking only one of the first 17 points. He missed the easiest of opportunities and looked thoroughly dejected but bounced back swiftly in the final set.

But he had to work hard for his lead, breaking for 2-0 on his fifth break point with a low backhand volley. A second break in the final game gave Stich the match.

"I didn't play great tennis but we won as a team and that's good," said Stich.



World number one American Pete Sampras plays a forehand return to Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov during their World Team Cup match in Dusseldorf on Tuesday. Sampras won 6-3, 6-3.

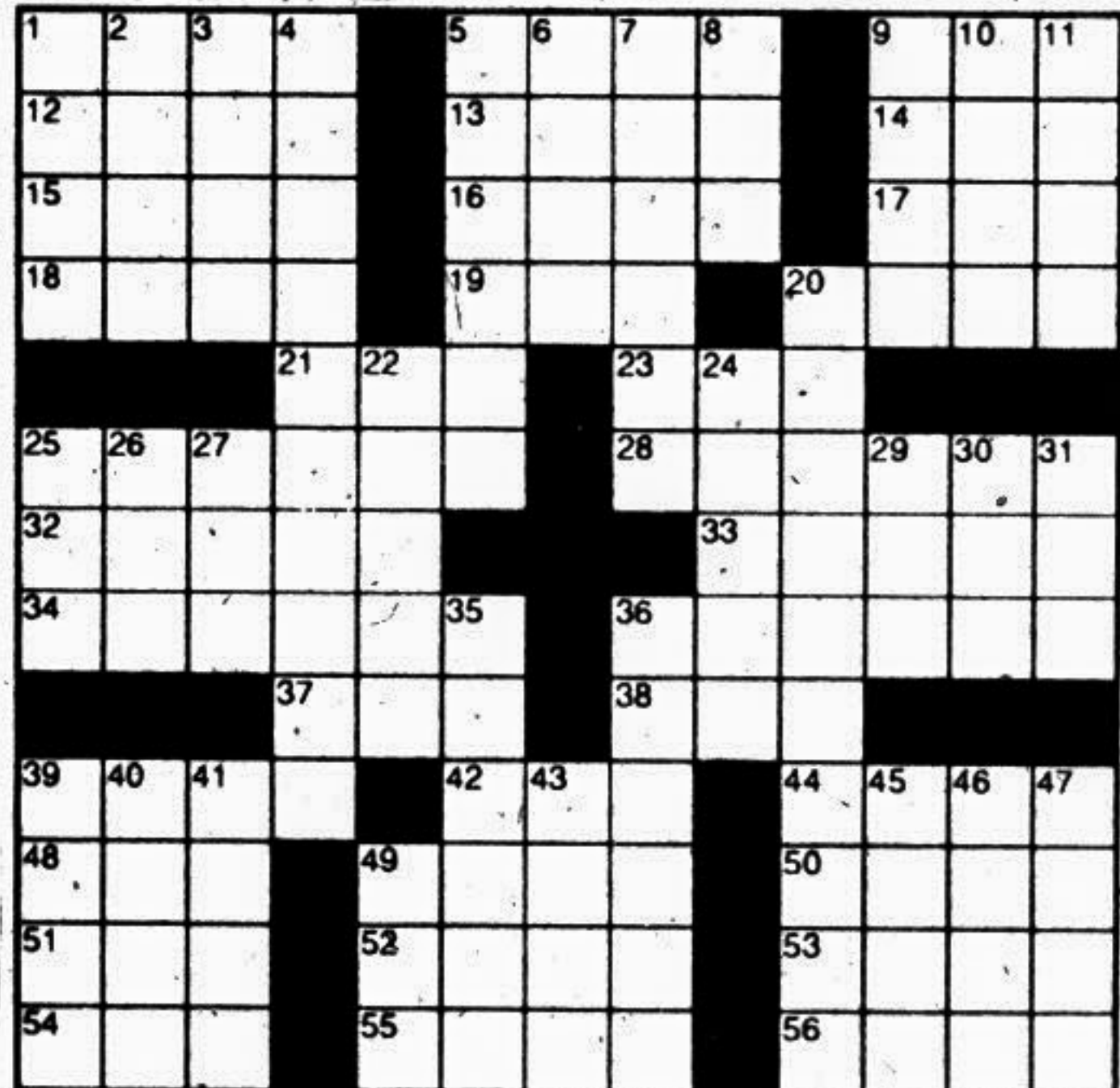
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Easter
  - 5 — Rojo, P.R.
  - 9 Cribbage
  - 12 Met
  - 13 Declare
  - 14 "Born in the —"
  - 15 Get
  - 16 Money for
  - 20 Despondent
  - 21 Nonfunctioning
  - 23 Kyoto
  - 25 Chewy
  - 28 One of
  - 32 Soaring
  - 33 Poet
- DOWN**
- 34 South of the border
  - 36 Engaged
  - 37 Greek
  - 38 Ump
  - 39 Region
  - 42 Bud's
  - 44 Disconcert
  - 48 Ostrich's
  - 49 Temperament
  - 50 Seed coat
  - 51 Turf
  - 52 11, to an
  - 53 Katarina
  - 54 Place
  - 55 Shake-spearan
  - 56 Advantage
  - 57 Cillium
  - 2 Neighbor-hood
  - 3 James
  - 4 Energetic
  - 5 Wine
  - 6 Bard's
  - 7 Nadir
  - 8 Pay with
  - 9 Influence
  - 10 Jacob's
  - 11 Ready for
  - 20 Menu
  - 22 Bring
  - 24 Authorita-
  - 25 Lad's lid
  - 26 Bullring
  - 27 "Back to the Future"
  - 29 Mason's
  - 30 Supple-
  - 31 Embar-
  - 35 Tea type
  - 36 Over-
  - 39 Vivacity
  - 40 Melville
  - 41 Divested
  - 43 Wet mud
  - 45 Dry
  - 46 Heart-
  - 47 Sultry
  - 49 Old

Solution time: 27 mins.

BEA PARA KOLA  
OAR ALAS ARID  
ARTICLES REND  
IDEA JAMES  
AMAS ARTISANS  
REC AMAHL ROO  
ARTIFICE STOW  
MASK WEEKS  
SMEAR ARES  
KING ARTERIES  
ILIE LION AWE  
PODS TOMS NEW

Yesterday's answer 9-18



CRYPTOQUIP

T R K D I E Q Q V T L N Q W U  
O I L E U D I Q R V K  
Q V R N C W V C Q R C W E O  
C Q V W C C

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: POPULAR EXPERT IN FIXING DENTS IN FENDERS TAUGHT A CRASH COURSE

Today's Cryptoquip clue: O equals M

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