

Kapil Dev bids farewell

NEW DELHI, Nov 2: Test cricket's leading wicket-taker Kapil Dev announced his retirement from the game Wednesday, a day before starting a new career as a television commentator, reports AFP.

The 35-year-old all-rounder said he was "leaving with a happy heart" after a glittering 16-year career that took him to the bowler's ultimate peak of 434 Test wickets in 131 matches.

Kapil, who is also a successful businessman, will make his debut as a television commentator here Thursday during the triangular series league match between India and New Zealand.

Kapil, who had said last month that he would retire sometime during the current season, agreed to do commentary after a hamstring injury forced him out of the team for the triangular series.

"This is the time to go. I finish one career today and start a new one tomorrow. It will be a new beginning to my life," he said.

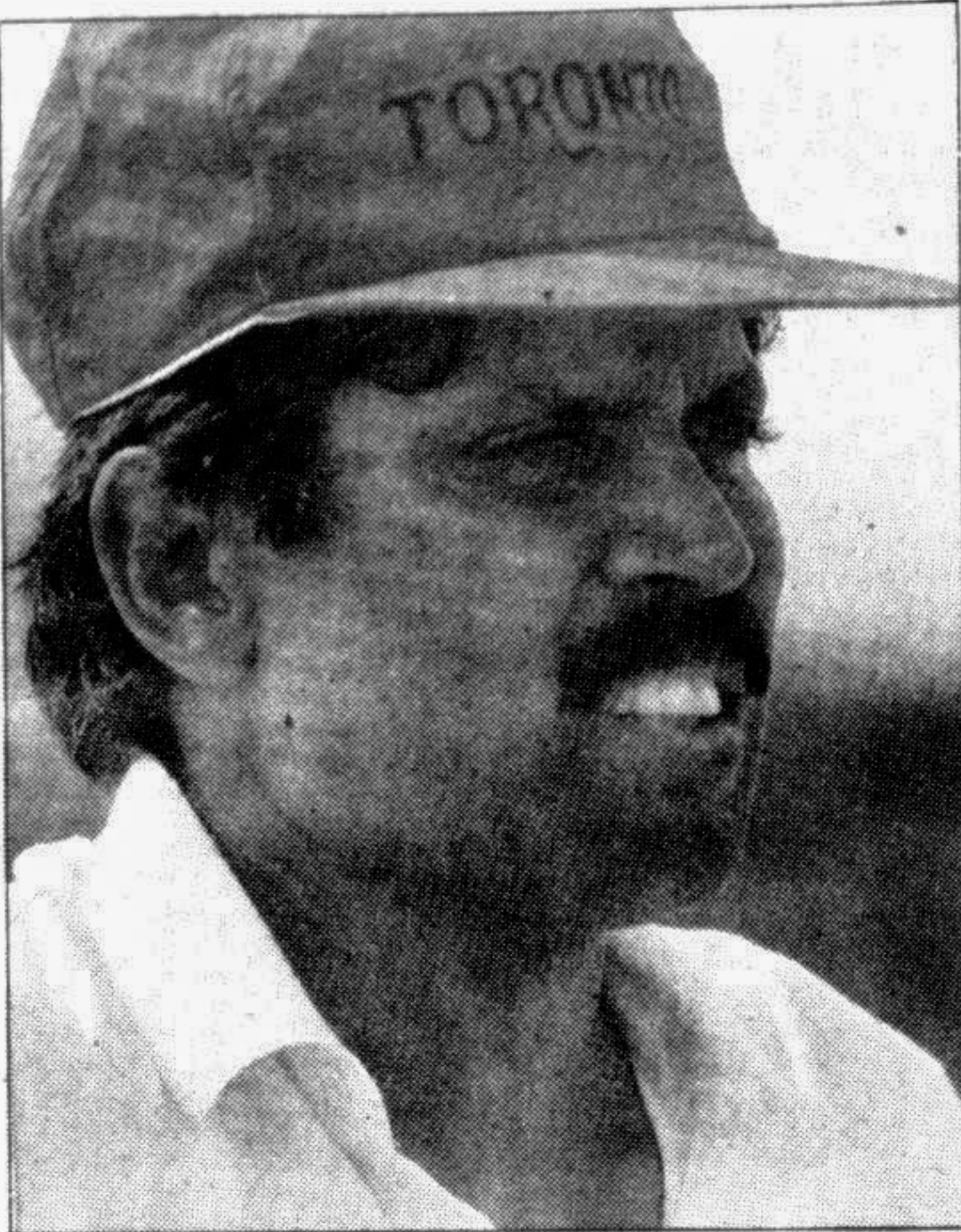
"I had no regrets in my career. I played clean and always gave my best for the team. I leave the game without any enemies."

"I am proud that my countrymen gave me lots of love and affection. It was unmatched. I don't think anyone has received so much love."

Kapil said he had deliberated for a "long time" before deciding to quit. "I am happy my wife and parents have supported my decision. They did a lot for me, now I want to devote my time to them."

Kapil had been widely expected to announce his retirement during the triangular series final at the Eden Gardens in Calcutta on Saturday.

"His retirement was expected but now that it has come, it leaves one numb," said former Indian Test captain Sunil Gavaskar, who has



KAPIL DEV, Indian cricketer

known Kapil intimately since the latter made his international debut in Pakistan in 1978.

"We should bow our heads to India's greatest cricketer. There will never be another like him," Gavaskar said.

Kapil, who overtook Sir Richard Hadlee's world record of 431 wickets earlier this year, said the time had come to leave the game because there were many promising bowlers in India.

"When I started my career, people thought it was foolish to take up fast bowling. Now everyone wants to bowl fast, and I like to believe I have contributed to this new development in Indian cricket," he said.

Kapil said his greatest moment came in June 1983 when he led India to a memorable World Cup victory in England. "I have always been a team man, and there could not have been a greater joy than winning the World Cup."

A fitness fanatic, Kapil never missed a single Test match due to injury. All the 131 matches would have been at a trot if he had not been omitted for a Test against England in 1984 for playing a rash stroke.

Kapil was also the world's highest wicket-taker in one-day internationals until Pakistan's Wasim Akram overtook his tally of 251 in August in Sri Lanka.

Bio-chemistry begin with a bang

Sports Reporter

Bio-chemistry recorded an emphatic seven-wicket win over Accounting on the opening day of inter-department cricket championship at the Jagannath Hall ground, Dhaka University yesterday.

Sent in to bat first Accounting could muster 113 runs from seven wickets in the allotted 30 overs with Mahub scoring the highest 20 for the eventual losers.

In reply, Bio-chemistry accumulated the required 116 in 27.5 overs for the loss of three wickets.

Sharful, who hit an unbeaten 45 steered his side to a convincing seven-wicket win with 13 balls to spare. Zahid with 16 was the other notable scorer for the winners.

Computer Science will take over Statistics today.

Benjamin joins Stewart, Udal

PERTH, Nov 2: Injured pair Alec Stewart and Shaun Udal are unlikely to be risked in England's next match against South Australia in Adelaide which starts on Friday, team officials said on Tuesday, reports Reuters.

Vice-captain Stewart fractured his right index finger while practising on the eve of the first game of the tour, against an Australian Cricket Board Chairman's XI at Lilac Hill, while off-spinner Udal broke his left thumb trying to take a catch during that match.

Both players are recovering well and hope to be fit for the one-day match against a Prime Minister's XI in Canberra on November 9, officials said.

Joey Benjamin joined England's injury list on the final day of the match with Western Australia on Tuesday when he failed to reappear after lunch because of a groin injury.

Stich, Edberg eliminated



PARIS, Nov 2: Andre Agassi, who earned a reputation for fading late in the season as his opponents got stronger, is picking up steam this year while Michael Stich and Stefan Edberg lose momentum.

Of the three, only Agassi is left after their opening matches at the 2.25 million dollar Paris Open, reports AP.

Agassi beat Jason Stoltenberg of Australia, 6-4, 3-6, 6-2. Lionel Roux, a wild card entry from France, upset the third-seeded Stich, jeopardising the German's chances to advance to the ATP finals, which he won last year.

Petr Korda of the Czech Republic surprised fifth-seeded Stefan Edberg 4-6, 6-1, 6-4.

Stich has a habit of late season success. He won the ATP Tour championship last year, led Germany to the Davis Cup and took the Grand Slam Cup two years ago.

Edberg, too, has won late in the Davis Cup finals and even had a victory in the Paris Open in 1990.

Now Agassi is coming on

strong. He won the US Open and the Vienna tournament since September. He also had a good run in the Stockholm Open last week.

He credits his new coach Brad Gilbert.

"I think now Brad has me very directed and very focused," Agassi said. "It just feels like a whole different ballgame than it ever used to be. It is enjoyable for me now to play."

Gilbert once assisted Agassi in a late-season fadeout. In Agassi's only other appearance at the Paris Open, he lost in 1992 to Gilbert.

Agassi remembered the encounter.

"Very painful," Agassi said. "I won Wimbledon that year, but I don't think I have had the direction I needed to really come into the fall or come into any tournament prepared."

Meanwhile Stich looked fatigued while losing to Roux. "I felt pretty tired and didn't really play the way I am capable of playing," Stich said.

He lasted just 77 minutes against the 21-year-old Roux, who lost to Stich 6-1, 6-4, 6-4 two years ago.

Stich was the ATP Tour

champion last year but now stands in danger of not qualifying. Currently fourth in the rankings, he will drop after the opening-match loss here. He needs a good performance in next week's European Community Championships in Antwerp, Belgium, to finish among the top eight.

In other matches, two more seeded players lost. Cedric Pioline of France upset 10th seeded Wayne Ferreira of South Africa, 6-4, 6-4 and Magnus Larsson of Sweden edged 15th seeded Thomas Muster of Austria, 6-7 (5-7), 7-6 (7-3), 7-5.

Also in the second round, Marc Rosset of Switzerland, 14th seeded, eliminated Arnaud Boetsch of France, 6-4, 7-6 (7-4).

In first-round matches Guy Forget beat fellow Frenchman Guillaume Raoux, 6-4, 6-4; Jakob Hlasek of Switzerland, who has played in all nine Paris Opens, defeated Javier Sanchez of Spain, 7-5, 6-4 and Paul Haarhuis of the Netherlands downed Czech Daniel Vacek, 7-6 (7-4), 6-2. Vacek was a late replacement for American Maliv Washington who injured an ankle.



Frenchman Lionel Roux plays forehand winner against German Michael Stich during their first round match at the Paris Open on Nov 1. Roux upset third-seed Stich 6-4, 6-4. — AFP photo

Atherton wants change of heart

ADELAIDE, Nov 2: England cricket captain Mike Atherton knows Australian fans don't have a high opinion of his team — but he aims to change that during the five-Test Ashes series, reports AP.

Mike Atherton said Wednesday that his players are out to win the respect of Australian fans in the lead-up to the first Test in Brisbane later this month.

England have been thrashed 4-0, 3-0 and 4-1 in the last three Ashes series and arrived in Perth a fortnight ago to predictions of another rout.

The tourists failed to beat Western Australia in their opening first-class match which ended Tuesday, but showed a degree of resilience that has been missing in recent England touring teams.

England play South Australia in another four-day game starting in Adelaide on Friday and Atherton hopes his team can continue to build momentum.

"We didn't win in Perth, but we were on top," he said. "But then again, we should be against a state side."

"I get the feeling from the Australian public and the media, that their impression is that English cricket is not what it should be."

"I'm not here to prove a point necessarily, but it's important that we do play well in these games just to reinforce the fact that English cricket produces some talented players."

"We hoping we can go some way towards erasing the attitude that exists."

Atherton said pace bowler Devon Malcolm will be used sparingly on tour. He is expected to play against South Australia, but may not play again until the first Test.

"It depends how many wickets he gets, how many overs he bowls," Atherton said.

"I'll talk to him and see how he feels. Some bowlers need more bowling than others and it's important we get the balance right."

Cloud over Thai Asiad's future

BANGKOK, Nov 2: The Thai government sacked the contractor of a multi-million dollar sports complex on Tuesday, but vowed to host the 1998 Asian Games even if it had to finance and build the facilities itself, reports AFP.

The Thai cabinet revoked building rights for Apat Nakorn company after the firm failed to secure financing for the project, government spokesman Abhisit Vejjajiva told reporters.

State-run Krung Thai Bank cancelled loans for the Apat project because the company had not submitted any blueprints, a financial source told AFP.

But Thai Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai told reporters "I want to assure you that the games can be organised in time."

Deputy Prime Minister Banyat Nanthadit said "a few companies are still showing interest" in the project, but he added that the Thai government may have to construct the complex itself through the National Housing Authority (NHA).

Sports authority of Thailand chief Therdpong Chaivanand would "try to explore alternatives" and get the project moving "immediately," Abhisit said.

Agassi slams ITF's new rule



PARIS, Nov 2: Andre Agassi, who came safely through his first match at the Paris Open on Tuesday warned enforcing the 20-second limit between points in Australia was "a disaster waiting to happen," reports AFP.

The reigning United States Open champion became the latest to criticise the new rule which is being applied to Grand Slam tournaments by the International Tennis Federation (ITF).

"The rule needs to vary according to the conditions," said the 24-year-old American who will be playing the Australian Open for the first time in his career.

"The 20 seconds between points in Australia is a disaster waiting to happen. Not only will the players feel it on a physical level, I think the quality of the tennis will drop tremendously."

"I think the 20 seconds limit is fine indoors but not in the heat at outdoor events, if they want to speed up the game a little bit I'd like to see them speed up the changeover time."

Other top players, led by three times Wimbledon champion Boris Becker have already attacked the new time limit, which although originally adopted by the ATP, has since been changed back to 25 seconds.

There has even been talk of a boycott, and Becker was not appeared when he was told by Australian Open organisers the new rule would be "sympathetically interpreted."

"It is either a rule or it isn't

a rule," was Becker's response. Agassi, who needs to reach the semifinals in Paris to ensure a place in the Frankfurt Championships, dropped a set but put out stubborn Jason Stoltenberg of Australia in his first match.

Now he faces either ninth-seeded compatriot Todd Martin or Carl-Uwe Steeb of Germany for a place in the quarter-finals where he would

MLS tryout

WASHINGTON, Nov 2: Organisers of Major League Soccer, the latest attempt to bring top level football to the United States, will hold an open tryout here Sunday, even though the league has no idea if it will play in 1995, reports AFP.

Tryouts at George Mason University will narrow the field. Up to 36 finalists will return for a second day of tests Monday.

Similar searches have brought out more than 300 hopefuls in Boston and New York, but done little to promote the First-Division claims of organisers.

Only one major sponsor has signed with MLS, which is overdue declaring which cities will have teams or even when the inaugural campaign will begin.

Many players sought by the league are under contract to existing indoor league or the American professional soccer league.

"We feel comfortable with the player talent we have identified for MLS but we want to allow the top local players across the country a chance to show they can compete in the league."

probably face world number one Pete Sampras.

"Qualifying for Frankfurt is obviously what I'm concentrating on at the moment. But after that I shall be turning all my attention on Australia. I'm really looking forward to playing there," he said.

Agassi, who has always given the year's opening Grand Slam event a miss in the past in order to stretch his end-of-year break admitted: "I think I accept now that there is no off-season in tennis and I'm not going to fight any more to have my two months off."

"After a little rest, I will spend four weeks preparing and getting myself in the best possible condition for Australia."

Agassi confirmed he would probably not play any Davis Cup tennis next year.

"I have dedicated five years to Davis Cup and we have won twice which has been a great experience. I've given a huge part of my career to it and I am still only 24-year-old."

"Now I want to focus on other things. I want to win more Grand Slam tournaments and I want to become Number One in the world. I want to give myself the best chance I can."

Agassi, who learned his tennis in the tough Nick Bollitieri Academy in Florida, paid a warm tribute to his new coach Brad Gilbert.

"I think Brad's work with me is beginning to pay off. Quite honestly I don't think I would ever have gotten to being world number one if I hadn't gone with Brad. But now, although there is still a lot of tennis to play, I really think I can do it."

Prize-giving ceremony

The prize distribution ceremony of the Graminor Open chess tournament '94 was held yesterday at the school premises, reports UNB.

Grandmaster Niaz Morshed attended as the chief guest and later distributed medals among top eight players and certificates among all 26 participants from three English-medium schools of the capital.

Argentina to bid for 2006 WC

BUENOS AIRES, Nov 2: Argentina will bid for the hosting of the 2006 World Cup, the president of the national football association announced on Tuesday, reports AFP.

Julio Grondona also told the media an executive meeting of the association (AFA) must approve the proposal. But the date of the meeting was not announced.

Brazil and Germany will also be campaigning to organise the 2006 World Cup.

Mashuk, Rashid win veterans' tennis title

Sports Reporter

The Dhaka Club duo of Mashuk and Dr Rashiduddin Ahmed won the doubles title in the veterans' group of the Nasiruddin memorial tennis tournament at the Officers' Club tennis court yesterday.

In the final of the 50 plus age group the Mashuk and Rashiduddin pair thrashed the Officers' Club pair of Masudur Rahman and Atiqur Rahman 6-3, 6-3.

Martina moves into qtrs



OAKLAND, Calif., Nov 2: Martina Navratilova, playing in her next to last tournament, rallied

from two games down in the final set to defeat Marketa Kochta 4-6, 6-2, 6-3 Tuesday to reach the quarterfinals of the Bank of the West Classic, reports AP.

Navratilova, 38, was overpowered for most of the match by an opponent half her age. She lost her serve five times, but after falling behind 3-1 in the final set she won the last five games of the match.

"It's been a long time since I won an easy match," said Navratilova, who plans to retire at the end of this year. "It's just to come back and win. I just wish I could do it easier."

Kochta, who grew up in Czechoslovakia idolizing Navratilova and entered the tournament in Oakland just to have a change to play her, missed an easy shot that could have put the match out of reach.

Leading 3-1 and with a break point on Navratilova's serve, Kochta netted a routine forehand with Navratilova out of position and the court wide open.

"I think if I had won this shot," Kochta said, "maybe it could be a better chance for me to win."

Navratilova no longer possesses the power that led her to 167 singles titles, and relies more on agility, athleticism and guts these days. She agreed that shot was the turning point.

"Thank God she missed that

passing shot," Navratilova said. "I think I would have been cooked otherwise."

A day after Venus Williams made her celebrated pro tennis debut in the 400,000 dollar tournament, Meilen Tu played her first professional match. But Tu's debut was not nearly as auspicious.

Tu, 16, winner of the US Open junior crown this summer, dropped the first five games and lost 6-3, 6-4 to Meredith McGrath in the first round Tuesday. Tu said she was intimidated and "just a bit shaky" against her 23-year-old opponent.

Debbie Graham upset No 7 seeded Lori McNeil 7-5, 6-2 in another first-round match, while No 8 Zina Garrison Jackson defeated Alexia Dechaume-Balleret 6-0, 6-1.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	35 Marceau's specialty	and crimson	20 Exploit
1 Jay —	36 Hard to find	1 Tray	21 Persian cat?
5 Away from work	37 Dieter's lunch	2 Goller's concern	22 Carry on
8 Auditioner's goal	38 Fame	3 Khan man	23 Vicinity
12 "No Trespassing," e.g.	41 Took top honors	4 Start a paragraph	24 Spaghetti top
13 Patriotic org.	42 — the Roof (song)	5 Valhalla VIP	25 Playwright Wilder
14 Really bad	43 Post-game party locale	6 Bleacherite	27 Jack and Jill's burden
15 Big banner	44 Ill temper	7 Reward after a soccer foul	28 La Douce
17 Teens' after-school mecca	45 Personal mecca	8 Negligent hurdle	29 Requisite
18 A billion years	46 Low-pH	9 Racetrack	31 Hammer-head feature
19 Mrs. Iago	47 Actor	10 Caron role	34 Buzzed monotonously
21 Cobs and pens	48 Beaty article	11 Scatter?	35 Creche structure
24 Gear for Alberto Tomba	49 Carmine	16 Spanish article	37 Scale member
25 "Isn't it Romantic?" lyricist	50 Solmine	17 Spanish article	38 — dub-dub...
26 Spiraling descent	51 Ashore	18 Spanish article	39 Grand-scale
30 Candle count	52 Dumb	19 Spanish article	40 — me tangere
31 Discard: slang	53 Beam	20 Spanish article	41 Storm factor
32 Part of "to be"	54 Beam	21 Spanish article	44 Reverence
33 Wrestling hold	55 Beam	22 Spanish article	45 Pink-slip
		23 Spanish article	46 Young Mr. Lincoln
		24 Spanish article	47 Print units

Yesterday's answer 2-15

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12													
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CRYPTOQUIP

PL P H Y K L G F V E G
H G S W L E Y L L E G Y L V G N S U
L P X " W M L Y P L X
M G K W L Y P F U L E W F Y .
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE ONLY THING MISSING IN AUTOMATED VOICE-MAIL SYSTEMS: A VOICE.
Today's Cryptoquip clue: K equals R
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.



Dr Rashiduddin Ahmed (L) and Mashuk (2nd from left) of Dhaka Club clinched the doubles crown of the Nasiruddin memorial tennis tournament beating Masudur Rahman (2nd from right) and Atiqur Rahman (R) of Officers' Club 6-3, 6-3 in the final at the Officers' Club tennis court yesterday. — Star photo