

Beximco 13th Federation Cup

Ctg Abahani, Rahmatganj win

Abahani KC of Chittagong and Rahmatganj MFS moved into the round robin league of the Beximco 13th Federation Cup football tournament winning their respective group final matches at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

Chittagong Abahani KC upset metropolis First Division runners-up Farashganj SC 5-4 in penalty shootout after the stipulated 90 minutes ended a goalless draw.

Chittagong Abahani will meet Brothers Union on June 6 in the round robin league.

Lovelu, the custodian of the Chittagong outfit, was the hero of the day confidently gripped the fourth Farashganj spot-kick taken by Pradip Kumar Saha.

For Abahani KC, substitute Farhad, Munna, Prince, Avijit Saha and custodian Lovelu converted their kicks.

Rauf Babul, Selim, Rinku and Liakat found the net for Farashganj SC.

In the first half both teams went on attack and counter-attack but the second half belonged to Abahani.

Four minutes from the final whistle Abahani substitute Alauddin could have broken the deadlock, however, his shot went over the crossbar

after winning the ball inside the box following a defence lapse.

Farashganj got their best chance in the 24th and 35th minutes but goalie Lovelu saved his team on both occasions. He foiled a close-range shot from Munna and a fine header by striker Riazuddin.

Yellow cards: Lovelu and Mithu (Abahani KC).

TEAMS

ABAHANI KC: Lovelu, Munna, Faruq, Masum, Jamir, Haider, Avijit, Mithu, Liakat (Alauddin), Rubel (Farhad) and Tipu.

FARASHGANJ SC: Bijoy, Santosh, Nazrul, Rauf Babul, Sagar (Pradip), Selim, Liakat, Akram, Munna (Rinku), Riaz and Ratan.

Referee: Nazir Hossen.

In the other match of the day at the same venue, Rahmatganj MFS beat Victoria SC

by a solitary goal to enter the round robin league stage.

Abul Hasan scored the all-important goal with a deceiving right-footer from outside the box, after defender Biplob Marma provided him a nice pass in the 23rd minute.

Rahmatganj will play Mohammedan SC in their first match on June 7.

TEAMS

RAHMATGANJ MFS: Lahul, Biplob Marma, Uzzal, Jaglul, Iqbal, Nazimuddin, Badal, Azimuddin (Javed), Mamunul Karim, Abul Hasan (Rubel) and Towhid.

VICTORIA SC: Shahadat, Aman, Kutub, Farhad, Faiyaz, Chanchal, Taju, Sumon (Sohel), Selim (Titus), Rubel and Sohel.

TODAY'S MATCH

Bangladesh Boys vs Wari Club (6 pm)



A mid-pitch action between Abahani Krira Chakra of Chittagong and Farashganj Sporting Club in the Beximco 13th Federation Cup football tournament match at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. Abahani won the match 5-4 in the tie-breaker. —Star photo by Enamul Huq

Bebeto cleared to play for Deportivo

MADRID, June 2: Instead of turning out for Brazil, world soccer's governing body FIFA has cleared striker Beбето to play for Deportivo Coruna against Real Madrid on Saturday in a game which could decide the Spanish League title, reports Reuter.

Bebeto had been included in the Brazil's squad for the four nation tournament in England starting this weekend, although his club were refusing to release him.

A fax from FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter to the Spanish Football Federation said: "In view of the decisive match which Deportivo face against Real Madrid, FIFA releases Beбето from joining the Brazilian team to play in the first match of this tournament against Sweden on June 5."

Bebeto is still nursing a muscle strain, but is expected to be fit to play in Saturday's match at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium.

Gullit: A blessing in disguise

LONDON, June 2: Chelsea, who for years were known as "the pensioners", lived up to their old nickname on Wednesday by signing Dutchman Ruud Gullit, a player very much in the autumn of his career, reports Reuter.

But although it is nearly eight years since he was voted European-player-of-the-year and moved for a then world record transfer fee of 8.83 million dollars from PSV Eindhoven to AC Milan, the free signing of Gullit from Sampdoria, even if he is 33 in September, could prove a masterstroke for the west London club.

Manager Glenn Hoddle, who for a while in the 1980s compared favourably with Gullit as one of the best players in Europe and who has only just retired at the age of 37, wants the Dutchman to play as a sweeper.

And his appearance in the English Premier League is likely to arouse as much interest as did the arrival of German Juergen Klinsmann at Tottenham nearly a year ago.

Gullit's sublime skills, from his inch-perfect passing to his understanding of the game, his powerful surging runs and his accuracy in attack, are sure to make Chelsea a tougher team to beat and a more attractive one to watch.

England captain David Platt, a teammate of Gullit's at Sampdoria, said: "I know Ruud was impressed when he met Glenn Hoddle. He played against him

in the past and likes his ideas about the game.

"Two years ago, it was impossible to think of the likes of Klinsmann and Gullit going to England. Klinsmann paved the way and I think Ruud will do even better for Chelsea."

Until the World Cup last summer, which he pulled out of after a disagreement with the Dutch management, Gullit was still regarded as one of the greatest players in the world.

That was not just the opinion of his millions of fans and a sympathetic media but the considered opinion of Milan who re-signed him from Sampdoria a year after mistakenly letting him go.

Milan's owner Silvio Berlusconi admitted openly the club were wrong to let him leave in

resurrect Milan who became European Champions in 1989 and 1990.

Off the field he is a journalist's dream, fluent in several European languages and prepared to hold forth on a range of sporting and social issues.

He dedicated his European-footballer-of-the-year award to South African leader Nelson Mandela and his frequent attacks on racism have helped make him a hero for black soccer fans the world over.

The son of a Surinamese father and a Dutch mother, the Amsterdam-born Gullit made his professional debut at the age of 16 for the local club in the nearby town of Haarlem.

He soon moved to Feyenoord, playing alongside the maestro Johan Cruyff in the championship-winning team of 1984.

Further Dutch League titles followed in 1986 and 1987, convincing Berlusconi that he was the man to take the Italian club back to the top.

Gullit immediately galvanised Milan, helping them to the Italian title in 1988 and crowning a marvellous year by captaining the Dutch to the European Championship.

Hailed by Ireland manager Jack Charlton as "the complete modern footballer," Gullit's progress was subsequently slowed by a series of knee operations.

Injured in the 1989 European Cup semifinal, Gullit returned for the final barely a month after a knee operation, rattling home two goals in his team's 4-0 win over Steaua Bucharest.

But fresh surgery was required which kept him out of the game for almost a year before the 1990 World Cup finals.

He appeared in all four games in Italia 90 but was a shadow of himself as the unhappy Dutch team, riven by internal bickering, made an early exit.

The next few seasons followed a sad pattern with glimpses of exciting form interrupted by injury setbacks.

Now after great success in the Netherlands and Italy, Gullit is preparing for further glory in England.

The player himself laughed off suggestions he was coming to London to wind down his career, saying he has not felt fitter for years. There are few prepared to argue with the formidable Gullit.



RUUD GULLIT

May 1993 after six seasons at the San Siro.

Gullit had an outstanding first season with Sampdoria and returned to Milan in May 1994. Although that move was not quite as successful and saw him return to Sampdoria in November 1994, he is still an awesome talent.

He is one of the Game's most distinctive and charismatic ambassadors and a favourite with crowds worldwide.

The golden years of his career in the late 1980s and early 1990s when he captained the Netherlands to success in the 1988 European Championship and, together with fellow Dutchmen Frank Rijkaard and Marco van Basten, helped

Transcom schools hockey

Rajshahi, Moijuddin move on

Sports Reporter

Rajshahi Medical College Campus High School and Moijuddin High School won their respective matches in the round robin league of the Transcom national schools championship at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

In the day's first match, Rajshahi Medical College Campus High defeated Ahmed Bawani Academy by a solitary goal. Bachchu Mia scored the all-important goal for the winners to give his team the second successive win.

Meanwhile, in the second billing of the day, Moijuddin High School recorded an impressive 3-0 win over Dhaka Residential Model High School.

After a barren first half, Ashkur Rahman opened the winners' account in the 5th minute of the second half from a penalty stroke. Prashanta Kumar Sarker converted the second goal in the 56th minute while Arifur Rahman struck from a free-hit in the 60th minute that eventually sealed the fate of the match.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Moijuddin High School vs Muslim Govt. High School at 2.45 pm.

Ahmed Bawani Academy vs Armanitola Govt. High School at 4 pm.

Arsenal try to lure Robson

LONDON, June 2: Former England manager Bobby Robson has been offered a 2 million pound (\$irs 3.2m) deal to return to England and take charge of Arsenal, it was reported Friday, reports AP.

Robson, 62, is currently managing Portuguese club FC Porto, who are desperate to keep him after winning this season's league title, especially as he still has one year left on his contract.

"Robson must stay with us," Porto president Pino da Costa was quoted as saying in England's Daily Telegraph newspaper.

"We won the championship in great style. He has got us into the Champions League and without Robson we would not have won anything."

Reports in several English newspapers said the Arsenal deal would be for five years at 400,000 pounds (\$irs 640,000) per year.

Arsenal's vice-chairman David Dein is to fly to Portugal to try to win Robson's release from Porto.

According to the Daily Star newspaper, Robson has told friends he is desperate for the Arsenal job.

The Telegraph reported that Stewart Houston, who took over as Arsenal manager when George Graham was sacked earlier this year, would revert to his former role as assistant manager.

ROK welcomes FIFA's move

SEOUL, June 2: South Korea said today it would not oppose bringing forward to early next year the date for selecting the venue for the 2002 World Cup, reports Reuter.

FIFA, the sport's world governing body, said on Wednesday it may bring forward the final decision from June 1996 to the start of the year on whether the tournament will be in Japan or South Korea.

"We are not going to oppose an early decision because we have effectively conducted the campaign to host the World Cup under a master plan..." Korea Football Association president Chung Mong-Joon told reporters.

Shunichiro Okano, the Japan Soccer Association vice president, said on Thursday he welcomed the possibility that FIFA may move up the selection date.

"That's reasonable, I think. It's better to avoid spending unnecessary time and money (on campaigns for the bids)," said Shunichiro Okano, the Japan Soccer Association vice president.

Okano said he was unsure if an earlier decision would be an advantage or disadvantage to either of the would-be hosts.

FIFA president Joao Havelange told a news conference in Zurich on Wednesday: "There are only two applicants at the moment so we want to try to take this decision as soon as possible."

Soccer sources said FIFA had been eager to streamline the selection procedure because Japan and South Korea, both emerging soccer nations, were being too aggressive in their campaigning for the finals.

FIFA officials said an inspection committee would be ready to begin looking at stadiums and facilities in the two countries by the end of September this year.



Action from yesterday's match between Rajshahi Medical College Campus Model High School and Ahmed Bawani Academy in the Transcom national schools championship at the Hockey Stadium. Rajshahi won the match by a solitary goal. —Star photo

Four-nation Umbro Cup kicks off today

England's trial of strength

LONDON, June 2: In little over a year, England will host the European Championship, aiming to win their first major international tournament since the 1966 World Cup, reports Reuter.

Next week Terry Venables' side could take a step towards that goal by winning the rather less prestigious international challenge tournament against world champions Brazil, 2002 World Cup candidates, Japan, and Sweden, who reached the last four in last summer's World Cup finals.

Less important it may be, but all four competing countries will be taking it seriously for different reasons.

Venables will use it to examine the international credentials of uncapped players like Tottenham goalkeeper Ian Walker, Manchester United defender Gary Neville and Liverpool defender John Scales as well as Nottingham Forest striker Stan Collymore and Liverpool midfielder Steve McManaman, who has made two England appearances as a substitute.

He will also be keen to see Paul Gascoigne back in an England shirt following his fight back to fitness since breaking his leg 13 months ago.

Gascoigne says being back in the squad is a bonus.

"To come back from the injuries I've had, and worked

hard to be back in this situation, is great. Just to come through the tournament will be pleasing for me," he said, adding that his widely reported 5.0 million pounds (\$7.92 million dollars) move from Lazio to Rangers had still to be finalised.

Manchester United defender Gary Pallister has been ruled out of England's opening game against Japan at Wembley on Saturday because of a rib injury.

However, Venables — already without Tony Adams, Steve Howey and Neil Ruddock among 14 unavailable players — has not discounted Pallister recovering for next week's games against Sweden and Brazil.

With Andy Cole unable to train because of the shin splint condition that will receive a specialist's verdict today, Collymore could make his debut.

Japan, who play England for the first time on Saturday, are keen to boost their bid to stage the 2002 World Cup finals.

Head coach Shu Kano will be looking for some high quality play from his side.

"We are not expected to win against three sides who are first-class in terms of world football," he said on arrival on Tuesday.

"It will be very difficult for us, but we must start to challenge first-class teams. We will not be defending, but attacking and people will get pleasure if we attack a lot."

Star of the Japanese side is Kazu Muiro who is with Genoa in Italy's Serie A. The only Japanese player with an overseas club.

Japan are fresh from winning the Kirin Cup last month after drawing 0-0 with Scotland and beating Ecuador 3-0 with Muiro scoring twice.

Brazil and Sweden open against each other at Villa Park, Birmingham on Sunday, with the Swedes keen to avenge their defeat in the World Cup semifinals last July.

Brazil, as reigning world champions, should be equally keen to impress — especially with the South American Championships in Uruguay little more than a month away.

Sweden, though currently fourth in FIFA's world rankings, have lost their last two European qualifiers, 2-1 to Turkey and 1-0 to Hungary. Unless they improve dramatically in the second half of the campaign, they look unlikely to be present at the real thing next summer.

They have been hampered by the long-term ankle injury to Thomas Brodin. If he is fit to play, Sweden may do better than expected.

They will at least leave one small mark for English soccer historians to savour. Their match against England in Leeds on June 8 will be the first "home" match England have played away from Wembley Stadium for over 30 years.

WC 2002 Asian battle

FIFA to name host in Jan

TOKYO, June 2: Japan said on Thursday it welcomed the possibility that FIFA may bring forward the date for selecting the hosts for the 2002 World Cup to early next year.

FIFA, the sport's world governing body, said on Wednesday it may bring forward the final decision on whether the tournament will be staged in Japan or South Korea from June 1996 next year to the beginning of the year, report agencies.

FIFA president Joao Havelange told a news conference in Zurich on Wednesday: "There are only two applicants

at the moment so we want to try to take this decision as soon as possible."

Soccer sources said FIFA had been eager to streamline the selection procedure because Japan and South Korea, both emerging soccer nations, were being too aggressive in their campaigning for the finals.

Asian soccer officials, however, had opposed bringing forward the decision date, arguing that FIFA's own timetable should be respected.

FIFA's executive committee also decided to introduce the sudden-death goal at the World Cup finals in France in 1998.

The new system, which will replace 30 minutes' extra time

in the event of a draw after 90 minutes, has already been used in junior tournaments and will also apply to next year's European Championships in England.

The team who score the first goal in extra time will be declared the winners. However, if the match is still undecided, it will go to penalties.

"If there is no golden goal, there will have to be penalties," FIFA president Joao Havelange said. "We don't know of any other solutions."

Blatter said the commission would initially look at the World Youth Championships in Qatar when five people were deported for trying to bribe players.

Elements have last laugh

LONDON, June 2: Sri Lanka Test batsman Aravinda de Silva looked set to score the fastest English county championship century of the season on Thursday but was then stumped by the weather, reports Reuter.

De Silva, the first Sri Lankan to play in English county cricket, had the 93-ball target set by Gloucestershire's Andy Symonds in his sights as he raced to 79 not out off 68 balls for Kent against Durham at Chester-Le-Street.

But with Kent on 144 for four a violent hail storm flooded the pitch and play was abandoned.

De Silva came in after the early loss of openers Mark Benson and Trevor Ward. Some dazzling stroke play brought him a half-century in 32 balls and he had hit 13 boundaries when play was stopped.

Australian paceman Carl Rackemann made a dream debut for Surrey at Worcester, taking four for 56 as the home county were dismissed for 204.

Rackemann, who will be 35 on Saturday, flew in from Queensland only on Monday.

Pakistan leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed put the skids under Yorkshire as he dismissed Anthony McGrath, David Byas and Australian Michael Bevan as they reached 269 for six against Somerset at Taunton.

Mushtaq finished with three for 68 in 33 overs.

West Indian fast bowler Hameesh Anthony took a career-best six for 77 for Glamorgan as Hampshire were restricted to a total of 324 at Cardiff.

Hampshire's last five wickets fell for 42 runs, four of them falling to Anthony. Glamorgan were 12 for one at the close.

Former England batsman Tim Robinson scored his second century of the week to steer Nottinghamshire towards a 314 total against Essex at Trent Bridge.

Robinson, who hit 136 and 63 in the previous match, hit 13 fours in his 185-ball century, sharing stands of 107 with Mathew Downmann (29) and 73 with New Zealand all-rounder Chris Cairns (50).

At Lord's, Derbyshire reached 258 for six against Middlesex thanks to a fourth-wicket stand of 110 between Colin Wells (81) and Adrian Rollins (61).

Sussex paceman Jason Lewry claimed a career-best six for 45 as Gloucestershire were hustled out for 202 at Hove. In reply Sussex reached 113 for four.

Iceland hold Sweden

STOCKHOLM, June 2: Sweden's hopes of reaching next year's European Championships suffered a setback on Thursday when they were held to a 1-1 draw at home by minnows Iceland in a crucial Group Three qualifying match, reports Reuter.

The Swedes also lost Everton winger Anders Limpar with a pulled hamstring seven minutes into the second half which will rule him out of next week's international challenge tournament in England.

Sweden, who hosted the 1992 championships and reached the semifinals of last year's World Cup finals, now trail joint leaders Turkey and Switzerland by three points having played a game more than both of them.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Rewarding job

5 Went like 60

9 Joplin's style

12 Chaplin's widow

13 Where the Hawkeyes play

14 Have bills

15 Part of a pirate costume?

17 Artist Shahn

18 Put together

19 Go easy?

21 He's been down the aisle

24 Con-temptible

25 XII, maybe

26 Rigidly formal

30 UN employment org.

31 Noteworthy achievements

32 Hooray, to Jose

33 They're too young to go steady

35 Unmatched

36 Farm cart

37 Passover feast

38 Benny Goodman's "kingdom"

40 One of the Three Bears

42 Layer

43 Film industry

48 Moose's cousin

49 Spruce

50 Cartoonist Peter

51 Newspaper revenue source

52 Seeks reparations

53 Calendar's duration

1 "Wham!"

2 Old card game

3 Modern card game

4 Lunatics

5 Founder

6 Gondolier's need

7 Ram's ma'am

8 Hostile look, metaphorically

9 Costner role

10 Dumb-struck

11 Hereditary unit

16 Music appreciation

20 Fond du

Solution time: 24 mins.

MISS BED CAMS

ANECDOTE ARAP

NATIONAL RAGE

ONE IAMBIC

PRUNE OGLE

TOSS OTHELLO

AVE ABETS EGO

ERASERS FARE

LIDO JOKER

MAITAI BAR

ONCE ENORMOUS

ONCE NONSENSE

TESS TWO DOSE

— Wis.

21 Troop group

22 Emulate

Lindy

23 Cons

24 Wilander of tennis

26 Witnessed

27 Salt

28 Magazine for Parisiennes

29 Moose's cousin

31 Airport listings

34 Rival of Tom and Peter

35 St. Lawrence, for one

37 Bond, e.g.

38 Home of the NY Mets

39 Use acetylene

40 Ballet band

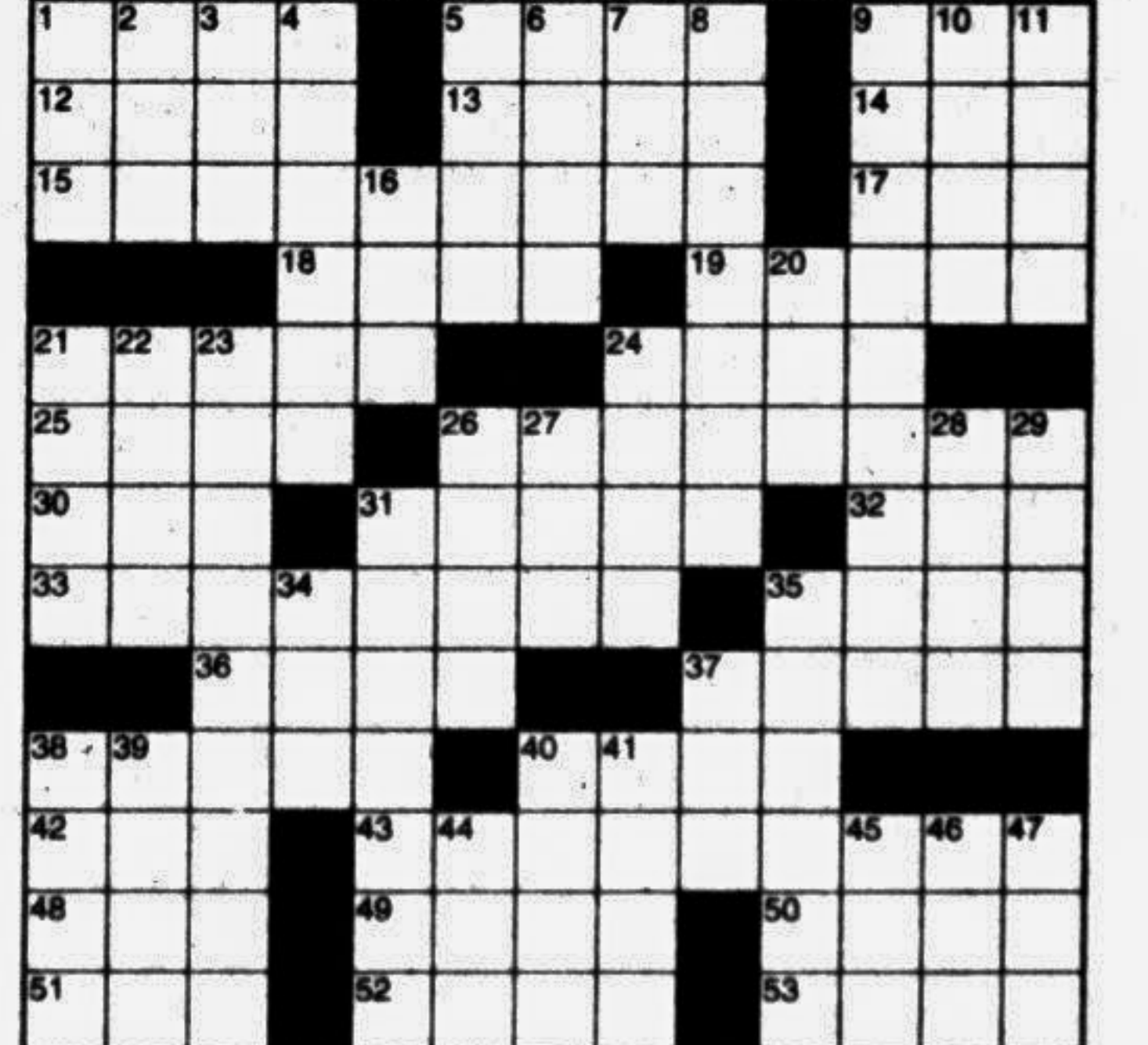
41 Charity

44 Tulsa sch.

45 Raw rocks

46 Three — match

47 Rimsky-Korsakov's "La Coq"



CRYPTOQUIP

SRVZ SKMU YPCZR U

SBT IVPFKZ UDRAJM

TC IKTIK SPM YRVVF

UBK JRZZKD

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: ON THEIR TOAST, NINE OUT OF TEN MUMMIES FAVOR PEACH PRESERVES.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: Z equals D

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.