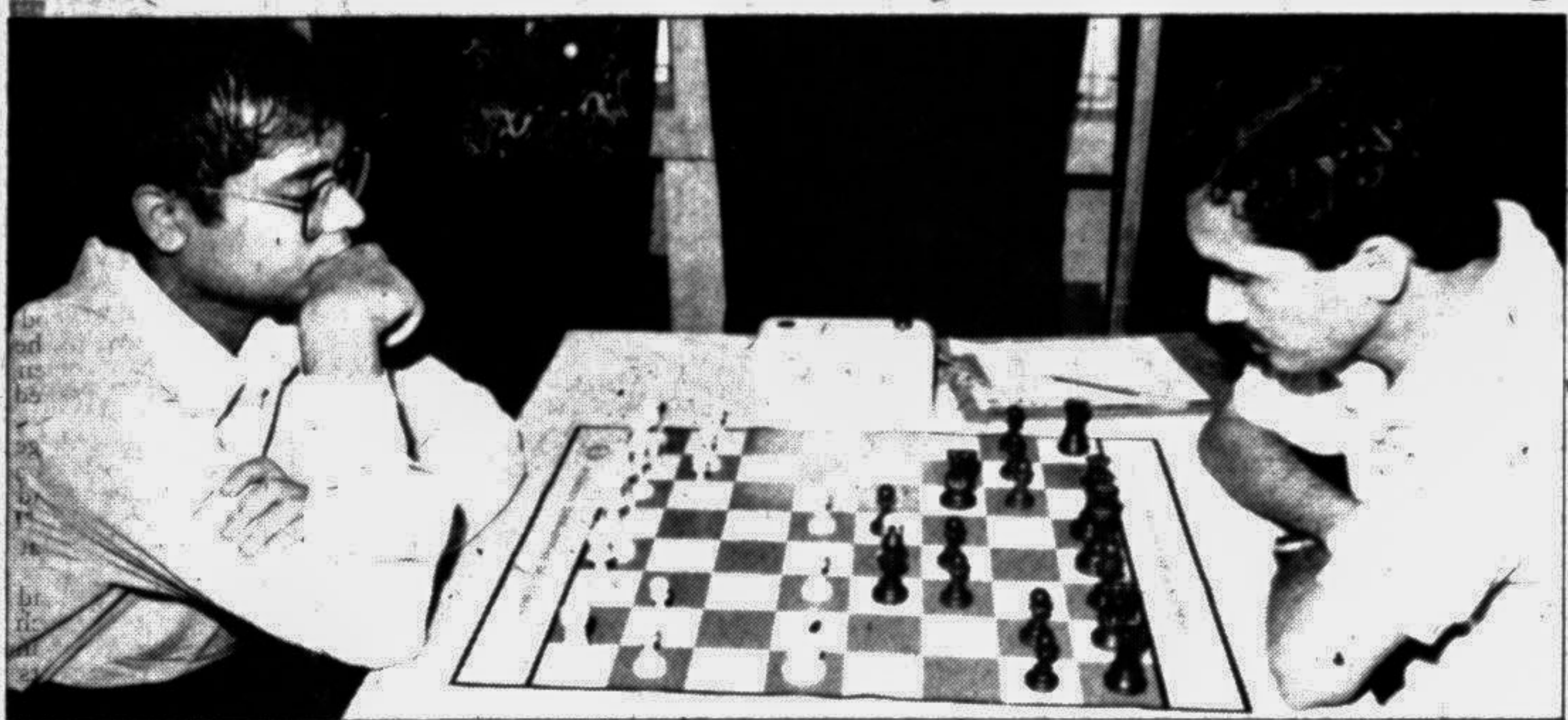
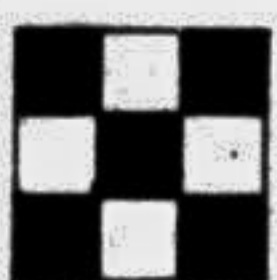


Sport



A bespectacled Ziaul Haque ponders over his next move against Fide Master Rezaul Haque during their 10th round engagement of the 21st national championship at the chess room of the National Sports Council (NSC) yesterday. Ziaul won the match. — Star photo

### Zia hopes against hope



While able leader International Master Reefat-en-Nadwi enjoyed an unscheduled day off, his arch-rival IM Ziaul Haque, recorded his fifth win on completion of the tenth round of the 21st national championship at the chess-room yesterday.

Holder Zia, who is now left with an uphill task of defending his title after suffering his second defeat at the hands of Saifuddin Lablu on Thursday, in this round beat Sumon Malik of Jahangirnagar University to raise his collection to seven and a half points.

The Biman contender playing with white pieces adopted the English opening and subdued a lowly rated Sumon in 49 moves. Sumon has so far earned one point in

the fifteen-round Swiss league meet.

Last year's runner-up Reefat, who has earned maximum points on completion of the ninth round on Friday, will play his adjourned tenth round engagement against Enamul Hossain Rajib, the youngest player in the fray and an upset winner against Zia.

On the next rest day, Friday.

Meanwhile, in the other matches of the day, Saifuddin Lablu of BTMC beat Khadaker Kayes Hassan of Ansars to raise his collection to seven, half point adrift of Zia. Lablu playing against Kayas' Sojin variation successfully employed the familiar Sicilian defence before prevailing in 39 moves.

With this defeat, Kayas remains stuck to his previous collection of six and a half

points and has to be content with the fourth slot along with Rajib, who has played one match less.

Khurshid Alam of Leonain Chess Club drew with Ali Amiad Mintu of Bobby Fischer Chess Club. Khurshid now has six points while Mintu followed him with five and a half points.

The other winners on the day are Abdullah-al-Rakib of Narayanganj, Ziaul Kader Tuhin of Bobby Fischer Chess Club and Tayebur Rahman of Khulna University.

Among the three, Rakib beat Arman Monir of Kishoreganj, Tuhin fought off a spirited challenge from Fide Master Rezaul Haque of Biman while Tayebur Rahman, playing with white pieces, penetrated through Arif's Park defence for a victory in 43rd moves.

### Euro Basketball Championship

## Croatia circumvent Russia

ATHENS, June 24: NBA prospect Arijan Komazec notched an impressive 30 points to lead Croatia to a bruising 100-94 overtime victory over Russia in a European basketball championship clash on Friday, reports Reuter.

The decisive Pool B victory made Croatia favourite for the gold medal along with Yugoslavia who beat Lithuania 70-61 earlier in the day in the top Pool A clash.

The Croats led throughout the match by as much as 10 points but a Russian recovery, inspired by guard Serbaj Babkov (27 points) four minutes before time, tied the duel 70-70.

Croatia took a two-point lead in the dying seconds of the match but a clinical double by guard Vasilij Kerasev two seconds before time tied the Russians again 81-81 and the match went to overtime.

Komazec then took over to net eight vital free throws, which gave the Croats their second straight win in the tournament after beating Slovenia 91-83 on Thursday.

Dino Radja of the Boston Celtics contributed 18 points for the Croats and Toni Kukoc of the Chicago Bulls added another 17. Croat pivot Stojan Vrankovic dominated the boards pulling down 10 rebounds.

It was sweet revenge for Croatia who lost to the Russians in last August's World Championship in Toronto, condemning them to the bronze medal. The Russians were silver medalists, losing in the final to the United States.

Playmaker Sergei Bazarevich and guard Igor Medulin shared 15 points each for Russia who were forced to their first defeat after wins over Finland and France.

In the top clash of Pool A, 1990 world champions Yugoslavia beat Lithuania readily to underline their determinations for a glorious comeback after a three-year absence from international play because of United Nations sanctions.

They relied on the talent

and strength of guard Aleksandar Djordjevic (18 points) and Los Angeles Lakers forward Vlade Divac (14) to win the match.

After a nervous start where the Yugoslavs led by as much as 13 points, Lithuania gradually cut the lead to six (35-29) at the interval and tied the match 35-35 two minutes into the second half.

Giant pivot Arvidas Sabonis used his 2.21 metres under the boards to keep his team ahead 48-46 midway through the second half but, the Lithuanian recovery ended there.

Djordjevic then took over

to lead Yugoslavia to its second straight victory sinking two straight triples. Zeljko Rebraca and Divac added two more baskets to put their team ahead 63-59 two minutes before time.

The Lithuanians then fouled deliberately to stop the clock but Djordjevic converted one free throw after the other for the final 70-61.

Djordjevic top scored for Yugoslavia with 18 points and Divac contributed 14. Sarunas Marculionis of the Seattle SuperSonics netted 22 points, including three triples, for Lithuania and Sabonis added another 18.

### Hira's triple crown

## Rains mar finals

Sports Reporter



Rain played havoc on the concluding day of the Afsar tennis tournament forcing the organisers Bangladesh Tennis Federation (BTF) to declare both the men's and women's finalists joint-champions at the Ramna Tennis Complex yesterday.

But Hira Lal, the defending national champion, who was scheduled to meet Dilip in the men's singles final, went home with a triple-crown.

Hira Lal had won the doubles earlier pairing with his younger brother Shibu Lal before annexed the mixed-doubles with Yasmin Ahmed Urmi.

Meanwhile, on the distaff side, national champion Sathy Sharker claimed a double crown when she was declared joint-champion with Chan Cookson. Sathy had earlier won the doubles title pairing with Hosne Ara Begum Rina, who once switched to soft-tennis and took part in the alpine event in the Hiroshima Asiaad last year.

Meanwhile, BSS adds: Salahuddin clinched the boys'

singles title in the under-16 group eliminating Shafique Islam 6-4, 6-3 and in the under-14 age group, Azharul Hoque Momi won the boys' singles beating Niranian Ram 6-2, 1-6, 6-2 in the final.

In the under-12 age group Syed Aziz Raj became champion beating Kanchan Ram 6-2, 6-4.

Rumana Hayat clinched the title in the girls' singles under-14 group beating Shefat Nusrat Baishaki 6-4, 6-1 while Noami Cookson won the girls' singles title defeating Shefat Nusrat Baishaki 6-2, 6-2.

In all 115 players took part in different events of the tournament, organised by the Bangladesh Tennis Federation.

Additional Secretary-in-charge of the Ministry of Youth and Sports Abhab Ahmed distributed prizes among the winners.

President of the Bangladesh Tennis Federation A M Zahiruddin Khan, vice-presidents Professor Rashiduddin Ahmed and Faizur Rahman Chowdhury, general secretary Syed Wahid and managing director of Afsar Group M A Rab were present.



Winners of the Afsar tennis tournament pose with their trophies on the concluding day at the Ramna National Complex yesterday. — Star photo

### Roberts rubs dirt in Lord's face

LONDON, June 24: West Indies coach Andy Roberts hit out on Friday at the Lord's wicket after England bowled themselves back into contention in the second Test, reports Reuter.

He slammed the surface as "One of the worst I've seen in England."

Roberts, who was a groundsman in Antigua after his playing days were over, said: "If all the wickets in Test matches are like this someone may get hurt."

"It was different today than it was on the first day. The bounce was uneven, it was up and down."

"I'm not worried for my players. I am fearful for the game of cricket. It was under-prepared, it was too dry and there was not enough water put on it."

"I would not expect any pitch in the world to be like this for Test cricket."

But England paceman Angus Fraser, who took three key wickets, said: "I am not complaining about it. It's a bit two-paced and batsmen cannot play with confidence."

"We were disciplined and made them work for their runs and waited for things to happen."

Lord's spokesman Roger Knight said: "I think it (the wicket) has produced two good days' cricket — and no one has said anything to me other than that."

"There is a bit in it for the bowlers, but I find it hard to understand Andy's comments."

England selectors' chairman Ray Illingworth said: "If the pitch stays as it is for the rest of the match then we won't have any complaints."

### Cantona ad to be probed

LONDON, June 24: Consumer watchdogs are investigating advertisements for a soccer video game which glorify Eric Cantona's attack on a Crystal Palace supporter, reports AFP.

Posters for Fever Pitch Soccer show a caricature of the Manchester United star aiming a flying kick at a shaven-headed fan.

Other advertising for the game features characters called "ernie le striker container, jergan the cheat divermann" who appears to be based on former Tottenham striker Juergen Klinsmann, and "barry ten bellies barger" — thought to be based on Paul Gascoigne.

None of the characters actually appear in the game, which is produced by Birmingham-based US Gold and is due to go on sale later this month.

The Video Standards Council said it would examine the advertisements and may ask the Advertising Standards Authority to investigate.

Football Association officials, who have dismissed the advertisements as "beneath contempt", are also thought to be considering making a complaint to the ASA.

Geoff Brown, chief executive of US Gold, defended the ads, saying on Friday they were meant to be witty and appeal to youngsters. The company had received no complaints, he said.

## England stage fightback



LONDON, June 24: England were 155 for three wickets in their second innings, a lead of 114, at the close on the third day of the second Test at Lord's today, reports Reuter.

Earlier on Friday, pace bowler Angus Fraser, not always the first choice of selector's chairman Ray Illingworth, inspired an England fightback against West Indies.

Fraser captured his 100th Test wicket by removing Brian Lara for six and later produced a burst of two for one to cut short a recovery being staged by Jimmy Adams (54) and captain Richie Richardson (49).

West Indies, replying to England's first innings of 283, were 209 for six at the close of a tense and absorbing second

day watched by another capacity 28,000 crowd under cloudless skies.

Fraser, originally overlooked for the 1994-95 tour of Australia before being called up in an injury crisis, and left out of the team who lost the first Test to West Indies by nine wickets, ended the day with three for 37 from 20 overs.

Playing on his Middlesex home ground, Fraser set the tone for a much-needed disciplined performance by England's pace bowlers on a dry pitch showing signs of disconcerting bounce.

But for four missed chances in the final session, three from Adams, England might have taken a firm grip.

After England's largely disappointing batting, the need for their bowlers to strike early was answered initially by Darren Gough and Fraser.

Gough struck with the fifth delivery off the West Indian innings, getting opener Sherwin Campbell caught behind for five by Alec Stewart with one that left the batsman a shade.

Fraser then reached his 100-wicket landmark in his 25th Test, moving a ball back into Lara that trapped the Trinidadian left-hander lbw.

With the score 23 for two, Carl Hooper and Adams set

point where Dominic Cork missed the catch, but his innings ended after 71 balls and nine fours when Fraser had him caught behind.

The West Indian captain put on 78 for the fourth wicket with Adams, who completed his half-century from 138 balls but survived slip chances on 38, 50 and 52.

However, Adams added only two after his third escape before falling lbw to Fraser, and Martin held a return catch to send back Junior Murray for 16, leaving the match intriguingly poised.

England prolonged their innings for 43 minutes and added 28 runs after resuming at the overnight 255 for eight.

West Indies would have wrapped it up sooner than they did had wicketkeeper Murray not missed two chances, dropping Richard Illingworth off Courtney Walsh before he had scored and putting down Martin on 24 off Curtly Ambrose.

Martin's staunch 99-minute effort ended when he was bowled off an inside edge for 29 by Walsh, who then had Fraser lbw for one, leaving Illingworth unbeaten on 16.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the third day of the second cricket Test

### Bata schools h'ball results

Both the Dholairpar High School and Bangladesh Rifles School and College recorded identical 13-6 wins over their respective opponents in the sixth Bata schools tournament at the handball court adjacent to the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

In the first match Dholairpar trounced Motijheel High School. Akbar Ali netted highest four goals, followed by Rafique and Shakiluzzaman, who added three each for the winners.

In the other encounter, Bangladesh Rifles notched an easy victory against St Gregory High School. Sajjad and Faruque top-scored for the winners with five and four goals respectively.

Mainul was the only successful scorer for the losers with four.

### Hockey scores

LISBURN, Northern Ireland, June 24: Results in a four-nation men's hockey tournament starting on Friday, reports Reuter.

Spain beat United States 4-1. Ireland beat Scotland 1-0.

### CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

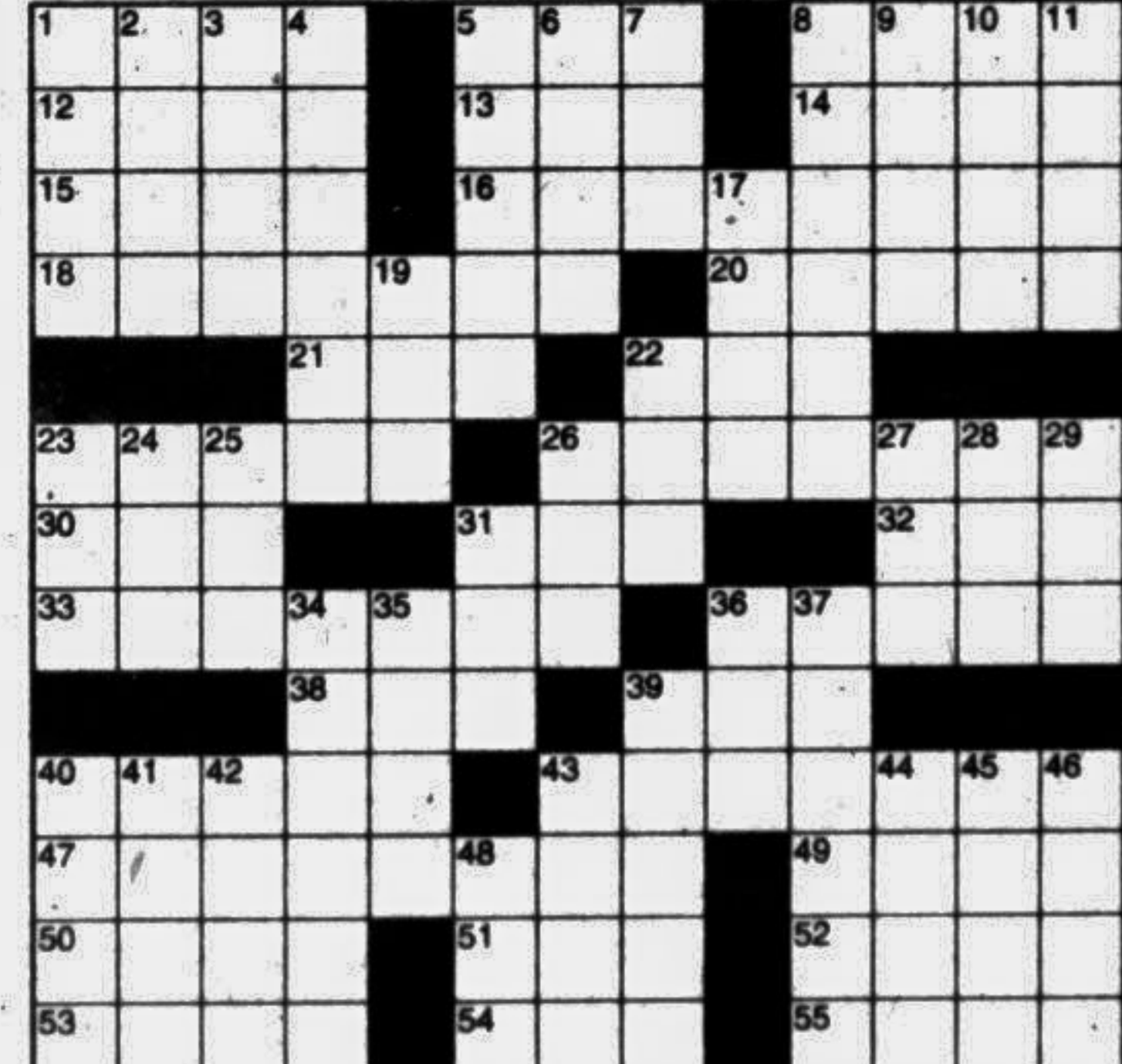
1 Burn a bit today  
 5 Fluffy accessory 43 Ladies  
 8 Tie with 47 Barber's device  
 12 "— Smile 49 Acknowledge  
 Be Your 50 Jerry  
 "Umbrella" Herman musical  
 13 Leather- 51 Same old same-old  
 worker's 52 Bean  
 tool town?  
 14 Busy as — 53 Basin  
 15 Andy's pal 54 accessory  
 16 Mules, e.g. 54 Irving or  
 18 Forceps 55 Chester  
 20 Noted hold-up man? — Arthur  
 21 One of the Gabors DOWN  
 22 Showman 1 Family  
 Ziegfeld 2 Prefix with  
 23 Composer Grofe sphere  
 26 Cured herring 23 Tasseled

**DOWN**

3 On top  
 4 Grated 24 Wallach or  
 5 Persian Whitney  
 6 Gulf port 25 Seance  
 7 Symbols of wisdom sound  
 8 Erstwhile 26 Decks  
 ring king for 10  
 9 First victim 27 Lamb's  
 10 Antitoxins 28 Fabulous  
 11 Last computer model  
 12 Last Spandau water-works  
 13 Insect's sense 34 Right  
 14 Previous organ 35 O.K.  
 15 Last night 36 Litter  
 16 Predicament member  
 17 Tasseled 37 African antelope  
 38 Mathis hit  
 39 Peak  
 40 Talon  
 41 Newsweek competitor  
 42 Accompaniment  
 43 Malefic  
 44 "Arrivederci —"  
 45 Pavlova portrayal  
 46 Geologic period

### Solution time: 24 mins.

A L E C W A S G A B S  
 R I M Y E R E A L A I  
 C R I B D R A G D O W N  
 S A R O N G M O D U L E  
 R O W S D I E  
 D R A G O O N S S T A B  
 E B B N O O N E T R U  
 B I D S D R A G N E T S  
 I E S E P E E  
 A C C R U E P R A W N S  
 D R A G R A C E R O O T  
 D U N E C P R E R M A  
 S E T S H A S D E E R



### CRYPTOQUIP

P Y R P I Z E X D J T K L J H  
G I H E G J B A X A X F  
B L R W Y A E G D A L G : " Y J " L  
Q K L G G I I Q K X F T I D Z J .  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE WORST THING ABOUT BIGAMY IS HAVING TWO UNLOVELY MOTHERS-IN-LAW.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: Z 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.

### Jr TT results

Four teams — Armanitola Juniors, Wari Club, Swamibagh TTS and Kalpataru Club — recorded their fifth consecutive victories in the metropolis junior table tennis league yesterday, reports UNB.

Armanitola Juniors beat Swamibagh Boys, Wari Club defeated Victoria SC, Swamibagh TTS outplayed Lalmatia Club and Kalpataru Club beat Gulshan Club, all by straight 3-0 sets, at the NSC wooden floor gymnasium.

In the day's other match, Udayachal Club won their first win beating Cynthia Sporting Club 3-2 in a closely contested match.

### TODAY'S MATCHES

Armanitola Juniors vs Victoria SC, Wari Club vs Swamibagh Boys, Kalpataru Club vs Swamibagh TTS, Cynthia Sporting vs Gulshan Club and Lalmatia Club vs Udayachal Club.

### Gooch one short of Bradman

LONDON, June 24: Former England all-rounder David Capel smashed a career-best 175 as leaders Northamptonshire stayed on course to claim their sixth successive county championship victory against Leicestershire on Friday, reports Reuter.

Capel hit two sixes and 27 fours to guide his side to 564 — their third highest total ever in first-class cricket — before Leicestership slipped to 48 for three.

But skipper Nigel Briers rescued his side with a 137-run stand with Ben Smith to lift them to 185 for four at the close, still a daunting 379 adrift.

Graham Gooch moved to within one century of Sir Donald Bradman's career record of 117 as Essex struggled in their match with Lancashire.

The former England captain hit 12 fours and two sixes to finish unbeaten on 115 — the 116th first-class hundred of his career — as Essex reached 190 for four.

They still need another 157 to avoid the follow-on after Lancashire piled up a commanding 496, with skipper Mike Watkinson hitting a career-best 161.

Nadeem Shahid, who left Essex in the winter to join Surrey, brought his new county back into contention against Glamorgan by scoring 125.

Surrey were in danger of following on after bowling out Glamorgan for 450 and then slipping to 121 for five, but Shahid teamed up with Adam Hollioake in a 149-run stand to help them reach 391 for nine.

Tim Robinson led Nottinghamshire's solid reply to Kent's record-breaking first-innings total of 533.

The former England batsman moved to within eight runs of his fourth century of the season to help Notts reach 201 for two by the close, leaving them a further 183 runs short of the follow-on target.

Yorkshire openers Martin Moxon and Michael Vaughan rescued some pride against champions Warwickshire with an unbroken 115-run stand.

Warwickshire built up a commanding 449 after bowling out Yorkshire for 96 on Thursday, but Vaughan finished unbeaten on 56 and Moxon survived a painful blow on his recently-injured thumb to reach 36.

### ROK spikers book berth

CHIBA, Japan, June 24: South Korea earned the ticket for the world league men's volleyball final stage when they outclassed Japan in four sets in a preliminary Group C match on Saturday, reports AFP.

It was sweet revenge for the Koreans, who suffered a 0-3 defeat in the Asian Games semifinals in Hiroshima last year.