

Fed Cup revenue Tk 56,80,000

BFF earns record profit

The recently concluded 13th Federation Cup football tournament proved to be a financial bonanza for the organisers Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) when they earned a record revenue of Tk 56,80,000 from this year's meet.

Of the total amount, Tk 46,30,000 was earned as gate receipts, Tk 10,00,000 was provided by the sponsors Beximco Limited while the remaining Tk 50,000 came from Bangladesh Television, who covered the final live from the Dhaka Stadium. "This year's gate receipts is a record for the meet," said BFF treasurer Pearu who also revealed that they had earned highest Tk 11,04,000 as ticket sales from the final between Mohammedan's and Abahani.

Pearu added that the expenditure for the meet was Tk 10,50,000 which included a cash award of Tk 2,75,000.

Sports Reporter

In a bid to offer more incentives to the participating teams the BFF, for the first time, introduced cash awards for the semifinalists with the champions receiving Tk one lakh and Tk 75,000 for the runners-up while the losing semifinalists would pocket Tk 50,000 each.

W Indies U-19 team due in Dec likely

Sports Reporter

A West Indies under-19 team is expected to make a brief visit to Bangladesh at the end of this year, said an official of the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) on condition of anonymity.

The official revealed that the Caribbean, who are scheduled to visit India on November, are expected to arrive here the following month to play a couple of exhibition matches.

Accordingly champions Mohammedan Sporting Club have earned a hefty amount of Tk 5,34,417.76 while Abahani Krira Chakra, who finished runners-up, became richer for Tk 4,13,998.13, disclosed the BFF treasurer.

He further went on to say that each of the sixteen teams of the first round will receive an impressive amount of Tk 65,000 (approx).

Meanwhile, the BFF have also earned a net revenue of Tk 11,50,000, said Pearu while the National Sports Council (NSC), who own the Dhaka Stadium, will get eight per cent of the revenue.

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Table with 2 columns: Team, Amount (in Tk). Rows include Mohammedan SC, Abahani KC, Muktioddha, Brothers Union, Bangladesh Boys, Abahani KC (Ctg), Youngmen's Fakirpool, Rahmatganj MFS.

Lifebuoy leagues resume tomorrow

Sports Reporter

Heavy downpour forced the organisers Dhaka Metropolitan Football Federation (DMFA) to suspend the scheduled matches of the Lifebuoy Premier and the First Division football leagues billed for different venues in the capital yesterday.

The DMFA, who are expecting the inclement weather to continue, have also declared an unscheduled day-off today.

In a press release the organisers declared the venues - Dhaka Stadium and the Mirpur Stadium as unplayable. And added that weather-permitting the leagues will resume on July 6 with all the matches being 'bodily' shifted.

Romario sent off

RIO DE JANEIRO, July 4: Brazilian striker Romario was sent off for arguing with the referee during a friendly match involving his club Flamengo.

Romario was dismissed in the first half of Sunday's match against a team representing the Brazilian state of Sergipe in the north-eastern city of Aracaju, reports Reuter.

Romario, left out of the Brazilian squad for this month's Copa America tournament in Uruguay, was first shown the yellow and almost immediately given the red.

Many of the 9,000 fans left the ground at halftime once the star attraction had been given his marching orders.

Brazilian International Branco also had a miserable afternoon, firing a second-half penalty over the crossbar as Flamengo were held to a 0-0 draw.

NBL v'ball results

Sports Reporter

Defending champions Titus Club and title aspirants Power Development Board (PDB) SC recorded their third successive wins in the NBL First Division volleyball league at the court adjacent to the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

In the day's first match, Titus Club sauntered past Fire Service 15-2, 15-4, 15-3 while PDB handed a 15-2, 15-2, 15-9 thrashing on East End Club.

Wari Club also recorded an emphatic 15-0, 15-3, 15-4 win over Mitali Sangha in another engagement of the day.

Meanwhile, in the Second Division league, Nabajatak Malish earned a facile 15-0, 15-2, 15-5 win over Sreejani Sangsad.

Hick blazes with ball

LONDON, July 4: England batsman Graeme Hick took a career-best five for 18 with his off-spin for Worcestershire on Monday, prompting county coach Dave Houghton to press his claims for a more significant bowling role in Tests, reports Reuter.

Hick and England teammate Illingworth, who took four for 30 with left-arm spin, sent Leicestershire tumbling from 59 for no wicket to 83 all out, giving Worcestershire victory by 134 runs in the championship match at Worcester.

Leicestershire, needing 218 to win on the fourth and last day, were undermined as Hick started the slide with a burst of three wickets for no runs in nine balls.

Houghton, Zimbabwe's former Test captain, believes Hick is capable of filling the second spinner's role for England in the third Test against West Indies starting at Edgbaston on Thursday.

Lancashire all-rounder Mike Watkinson has been included in the squad with a view to filling that role, but Houghton said: "I can't understand it when you've already got someone like Hick in the side."

"On his day, and on a wicket that is giving response to turn, Hick can certainly achieve that. He's a natural bowler, not someone who will get better by practising for hour after hour in the nets."

Darren Blenkinsop, in only his fifth championships match, helped to lift Durham off the bottom of the table with his maiden century in a six-wicket victory over Glamorgan at Swansea.

Blenkinsop, son of the former Warwickshire paceman Bill Blenkinsop, batted with skill and patience for 145, reaching three figures in 168 balls. He struck four sixes and 11 fours altogether as Durham won at 343 for four with 17.5 overs to spare.

Nottinghamshire left-arm spinner Jimmy Hindson claimed his second 10-wicket match haul of the season. But Somerset fought back to force a draw at Trent Bridge.



Defending Olympic champion Linford Christie (R) of Britain crosses the line ahead of his American rival Carl Lewis to win the 100 metre dash of the Paris track and field meet on July 3. The 35-year-old Briton clocked 10.06 seconds.

Morceli's marvellous mark



PARIS, July 4: Another year, another world record for Nour-eddine Morceli.

It's getting to be a yearly habit for the Algerian.

Morceli broke the world 2,000 metres record on Monday at the Paris Gaz De France Grand track meet adding to his claim to be considered the greatest middle-distance runner ever and knocking his great rival Said Aouita out of the record books, reports agencies.

Morceli, running the last two circuits of the five-lap race on his own, clocked four minutes 47.88 seconds to knock almost three seconds off Aouita's 1987 time of 4:50.81, also set in Paris.

"I know I had the world record in my legs," Morceli said. "Last week I did 3:32 for 1,500 in St Petersburg (Russia) in very bad weather conditions."

It was Morceli's fourth world record, all set in consecutive years since he broke the 1,500 metres best in 1992. He added the mile record in 1993 and the 3,000 metres last year and all his records still stand.

Ironically, Morceli's Paris run took away the last world record held by the great Moroccan runner Aouita, the man Morceli is most often compared with when the all-time greats of middle-distance running are debated.

But Morceli said he took no joy from the fact that it was Aouita's record he had broken.

"I respect him a lot," he said. "He did a lot for sport and set a great example for the youth of the world. But beating a record is something that happens in sports."

Morceli's brother Ali set the pace of 57.06 for the first 400 metres and led through the 800 in 1:57.06. American Terrence Herrington took over and helped Morceli to a 1,000 mark of 2:26.15.

"When I saw the 2:26 I thought it was a little bit slow," Morceli said. "So I decided to pick up the pace."

Morceli ran alone for the last 600 and passed the 1,500 in 3:36.89 and the mile in approximately 3:54. His last

400 was 55.0. He fell to the ground after the finish line and was surrounded by Algerian fans waving national flags as he took his victory lap.

He didn't rule out more world records in the future, although he was taking a practical attitude.

"I am still young," the 25-year-old Morceli said. "I have

mate, world champion and record holder Colin Jackson was just third in 13.28 in the 110 hurdles. American Mark Crear won in 13.08. Another American, Allen Jackson, was second in the same time.

Haile Gebrselasie of Ethiopia failed his attempt to recapture his 5,000 world record. He did 13 minutes, 7.81 seconds.

Moses Kiptanui of Kenya did 12:55.30 last month to break the Ethiopian's mark of last year. Sergei Bubka of Ukraine won the pole vault with 5.90 metres but world long jump recordholder Mike Powell lost his event.

Ivan Pedroso of Cuba and Powell both had 8.52-metre (27 feet 11 1/2 inches) jump but the Cuban won with the better second jump of 8.37 (27.5 1/2) compared to Powell's 8.30 (27.2 3/4).

Mike Johnson the 200-400 American champion, settled for a 200 win in 19.92. In the 100, Lewis has a 12.5 edge over Christie but most were gained in the 1980s. Christie now has the Olympic and world titles that Lewis once held.

"I wasn't concerned with my time. I just ran to win," Christie said. "I thought it was okay but it is up to my coach to tell me if I did anything wrong later."

Lewis was disappointed with his race. "I can do better," Lewis said. "I didn't do well out of the blocks. I just came overseas and I will do better in my next races."

Lewis now 34, has been slowly declining. He failed to qualify for the American team in the 100 by coming in sixth in the national trials. He has run a wind-aided 9.94 this season, although coming in third in the Texas relays race.

Olympic 400 champion Marie-Jose Perec of France had her first major battle in the 400 hurdles and beat two top Americans, Tonja Buford and Kim Batten. Perec bettered her French record with 54.48 with Buford second in 54.67 and Batten third in 55.34.

Christie was timed in 10.06 seconds. Davidina Ezinwa of Nigeria was second in 10.08 with world 200 champion Frankie Fredericks of Namibia third, 10.12.

Lewis was fifth in 10.25 behind another American, Jon Drummond, fourth in 10.25. Christie's British team-

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a lot of time."

In a shorter race, Linford Christie beat Carl Lewis easily for the fourth consecutive time.

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Stoichkov's parting shot



BARCELONA, July 4: Hristo Stoichkov lays the blame for his departure from Barcelona firmly on the shoulders of Dutch coach Johan Cruyff, claiming he was jealous of his success.

The Bulgarian international, currently finalising a three-year deal said to be worth 15 million dollars with UEFA Cup holders Parma, says bad feeling between two of Europe's greatest footballers stemmed from Cruyff's attitude.

"It's clear that he doesn't want me. He told me that if I stayed I wouldn't play," he was quoted on Monday as saying in the Barcelona-based sports paper El Mundo Deportivo.

"I've achieved things with Barca that Cruyff never did while he was playing for the club. That's what hurts him."

"Three years ago I had a very attractive offer from

Paris St Germain but I decided to stay. Now the situation is very different," Stoichkov said in a telephone interview. "I decided which club to go to but it's Barca that have thrown me out."

Stoichkov and Cruyff were at odds throughout the club's disappointing 1994-95 season, the player's fifth at Nou Camp.

Barcelona president Josep Lluís Núñez wanted Stoichkov to stay for at least another year but Cruyff made it clear he would be relieved to see Stoichkov go.

"If Hristo is not with us next year it will be one problem less to think about. This season it was like having a bomb in the dressing room," Cruyff said after talks between club and player broke down last week.

In an emotional open letter published by El Mundo Deportivo's back page on Monday 29-year-old Stoichkov paid homage to Barcelona's

fans, many of whom wanted him to stay.

"Marma is a great club like Barca," Stoichkov wrote. "I'm happy to have signed for them, although it's clear I would have liked to stay here. But there's no point in my being in a club where I can't play."

"I'm a passionate person with all the accompanying virtues and defects but I've always done my best to defend this (Barcelona) shirt."

In Italy, Parma director Giambattista Pastorello told a news conference that Stoichkov had signed for three years on a net salary of one million dollars per season. He said Barcelona would get about 10.2 million dollars.

Some 2,000 fans turned out to welcome the Bulgarian to his new club and hear him promise great times ahead.

"The fans can rest easy. The victories will come," he said.

Johnson's anxious 48 hrs



LAUSANNE, July 4: A tantalising double awaits American sprinter Michael Johnson in the

quiet Swiss town of Lausanne during the next 48 hours, reports Reuter.

Today, Johnson will try and persuade International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Juan Antonio Samaranch to change the schedule for next year's Atlanta Olympics and allow an attempt on a unique 200-400 metres double.

The following day Johnson assaults the oldest track record on the books when he chases Pietro Mennea's 16-year-old 200-metre mark of 19.72 seconds.

The odds against re-shaping the Olympic programme to Johnson's satisfaction seem long, even though International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) president Primo Nebiolo is anxious to accommodate one of the hottest properties in his sport.

The IAAF is on the record as saying the schedule cannot be overhauled for one athlete and alternations announced by Nebiolo after an IOC meeting in Budapest last

month did not satisfy Johnson.

Johnson, who has world titles at both the 200 and 400 but as yet no Olympic gold, has said he will not consider doubling unless he can complete one event before starting the other.

"Whatever race I don't run in will be a joke," Johnson said.

"I don't have an idea what is going to happen. I just want to talk with the IOC. I want to give my perspective and I want to hear their perspective."

On the track, Johnson seems set this season to fulfil his awesome potential, culminating with the 200-400 double at next month's World Championships in Gothenburg.

Johnson ran the fourth fastest 400 metres time ever at the US trails in sacramento last month, when he clocked 43.66 seconds, followed by the fastest time of the year over 200 metres on the following day with 20.04 seconds.

On Monday night, Johnson clocked a wind-assisted 19.92 seconds in a warm-up for Lausanne at the Paris Grand Prix.

"The 200 record is in reach right now, possibly in Lausanne," Johnson said prior to the Paris meeting. "It has a good surface and wide turns."

Meeting promoter Jacky Delapierre has assembled an impressive 200 metres field in Europe's second richest meeting, worth 2.1 million Swiss francs (1.8 million dollars) this year.

Johnson will have to contend with world champion Frankie Fredericks and Olympic gold medalist Mike Marsh, as well as eight-time Olympic champion Carl Lewis, whose last truly convincing international sprint performance came here two years ago when he clocked 19.99 seconds.

In addition, Olympic 100 metres champion Linford Christie, who has endured a troubled season, is down to run along with fellow-Briton and world silver medalist John Regis.

Grobelaar & co questioned

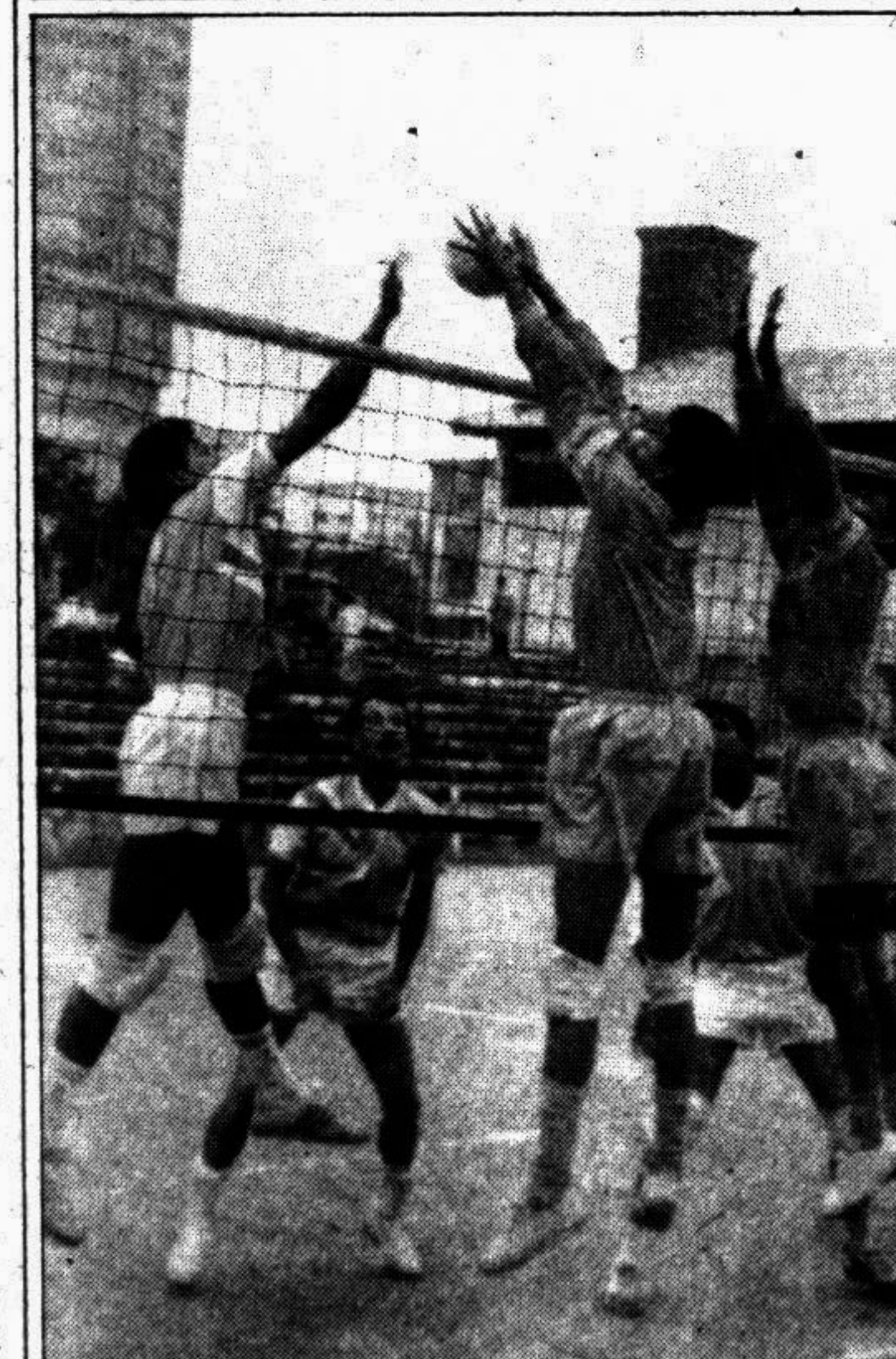
SOUTHAMPTON, July 4: Bruce Grobelaar, John Fashanu and Hans Segers reported back to police Tuesday for more questioning in connection with English's soccer biggest match-fixing scandal in 30 years, reports AP.

The three Premier League stars were arrested in March, questioned for 30 hours, then released on bail without charge following a four-month investigation into allegations they took bribes from an Asian gambling syndicate.

Two other people arrested the same day - Malaysian businessman Heng Suan Lim and Fashanu's girlfriend, Melissa Kassampasi - also reported for further questioning Tuesday. All five have denied the allegations.

Southampton goalkeeper Grobelaar, a 37-year-old Zimbabwean, said nothing as he arrived Tuesday morning at Southampton Central police station, walking around the back of the building before entering through the front door.

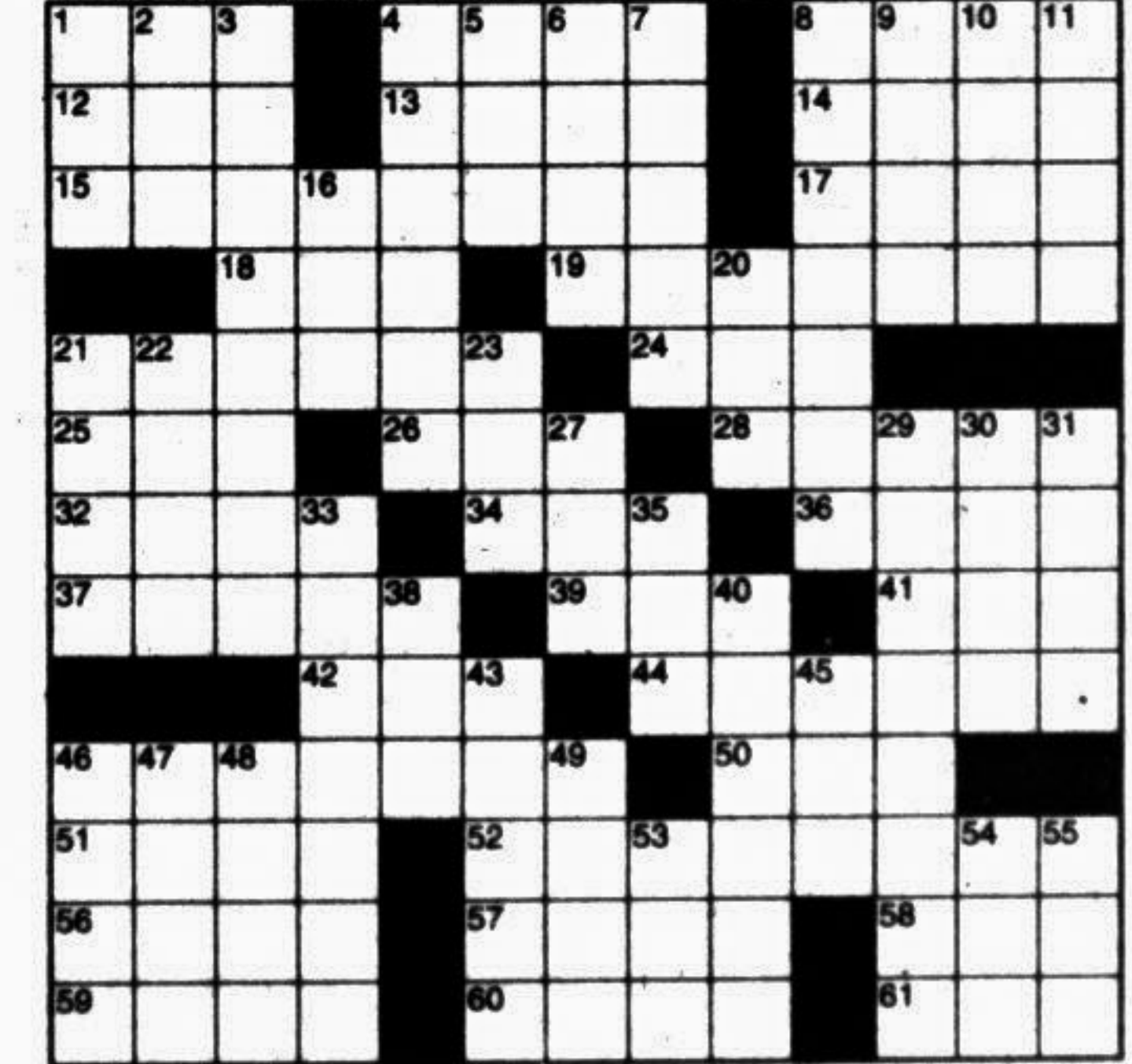
Wimbledon goalkeeper Segers, 33, was accompanied by his lawyer as he reported to a police station in nearby Eastleigh, and 31-year-old Aston Villa striker Fashanu arrived at Fareham police station in the back of a black, chauffeur-driven BMW.



Action from yesterday's NBL First Division volleyball league match between Titus Club and Fire Service at the court adjacent to the Dhaka Stadium. Titus won 15-2, 15-4, 15-3. —Star photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes a solution for Cryptquip: YL'G WOF HOG EFYUSF'G HSZYSA LMTL TZZ'G ATFS YV ZWUS TVE CTF.



CRYPTOQUIP
YL'G WOF HOG EFYUSF'G
HSZYSA LMTL TZZ'G
ATFS YV ZWUS TVE CTF.
Yesterday's Cryptquip: GARDENER WAS FIRED FOR SHIRKING WORK; HE GOT A ROOT AWAKENING. Today's Cryptquip clue: U equals V
The Cryptquip 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.