



RIGHT ON TO THE TARGET. Muktijoddha's Golam Gaus (C) anxiously looks on as his goal-bound shot is about to enter the Agrani Bank net during a Lifebuoy Premier Division football league engagement at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. Muktijoddha won the match 2-0. — Star photo

TODAY'S FIXTURES

LIFEBUOY PREMIER FOOTBALL LEAGUE Brothers Union vs Wari Club (4:30 pm, Dhaka Stadium) Mohammedan SC vs Arambagh KS (6:30 pm, Mirpur Stadium) LIFEBUOY FIRST DIVISION FOOTBALL LEAGUE Sadharan Bima KS vs Dhanmondi Club (5:00 pm, Mirpur Stadium) PIONEER FOOTBALL LEAGUE West Zone 'Ka' Group Badshah Smriti Sangsad vs Arambagh KC Juniors (2:30 pm, Rajuk ground) Lalbagh Torun Sangha vs Rising SC (4:00 pm, Rajuk ground) West Zone 'Kha' Group Swadesh Samaj KS vs Azimpur Heroes (2:30 pm, Dhanmondi Club Ground) Surja Sena SC vs Lalbagh KC (4:00 pm, Dhanmondi Club Ground) NBL First Division Volleyball League (Stadium Courts) Bastrakal vs Dilkusha SC (4:00 pm) Sonali Bank Club vs BDR (5:30 pm) Azad SC vs Nabajagoroni Sangha (7:00 pm) Dhaka Shobuj vs Chand Textiles (7:00 pm) NBL SECOND DIVISION VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE (STADIUM COURTS) Shantibagh OA vs Srijonec Sangsad (4:00 pm) Jiban Bima KS vs Victoria SC (5:30 pm)

Old-towners share honours

Sports Reporter Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society and Farashganj Sporting Club, the two promoters in the Premier Division football league this year, shared honours in a goalless draw in the first match at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. For Rahmatganj, Russian booter Alexander Ninisky made his maiden appearance in the Dhaka football striking a ball against the woodwork at the stroke of the breather. With the inclusion of Ninisky, who arrived in the capital on Monday, Rahmatganj played well through out the proceedings. But due to sheer bad luck the old town outfit had to satisfied with a draw. Rahmatganj, who were promoted to the elite group as First Division football league champions last year, also got another golden chance in the 47th minute. But striker Rinku, who had only to beat a helpless Farashganj goal-tender Bijoy, blasted the ball wide off the mark much to the horror of his teammates. With this draw Rahmatganj, who had earlier lost their first two matches by an identical 3-0 margin, picked their first point from three matches while it was Farashganj's second successive draw to earn two points on completion of their three league engagements.

TEAMS FARASHGANJ SC: Bijoy, Nazrul, Montu, Sufian, Sagar (Chena Mong), Liakat, Akram (Selim), Babu, Monir, Riaz (Ratan) and Rinku. RAHMATGANJ MFS: Lahul, Bilal, Riaz Marmar, Jaglu, Shahid, Azim, Badal, Zaved, Alexander Ninisky, Jafer and Mammul Karim (Abul Hasan). Referee: Sheikh Badruddin.

Dull draw

Sports Reporter Shantinagar and Victoria Sporting Club split points in a lacklustre goalless draw in the lone Lifebuoy First Division football league match at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday. On a slippery surface both sides locked horns in the middle in a painstaking engagement. The outcome of yesterday's match left Victoria record their third successive draw while for Shantinagar it was their second draw after suffering a 2-0 defeat at the hands of Sadharan Bima. Both have played three matches.

Graf withdraws

HAMBURG, July 11: Steffi Graf, fresh from winning her sixth Wimbledon singles title, has pulled out of Germany's Fed Cup semifinal match against Spain later this month because of back problems, German tennis officials said Tuesday, reports AP. Graf's withdrawal will prevent a repeat of the Wimbledon final, in which Graf beat Arantxa Sanchez Vicario. German team captain Klaus Hofmann named Anke Huber, Sabine Hack, Meike Babel and Claudia Porwik for the semifinal tie July 22-23 in Santander, Spain.

Muktijoddha bounce back

Sports Reporter After a disappointing show in the previous match, Muktijoddha Sangsad Kriya Chakra returned to winning ways when last year's runners-up earned a comfortable 2-0 win over Agrani Bank in one of the two Premier Division football league matches billed for the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. In the day's second match played on a heavy outfield Muktijoddha, who were held to a one-all draw in their previous match against an spirited Fakirpool Youngmen's Club, led the first half by a lone goal. Gaus, the dark dapper winger of the star-studded Muktijoddha outfit, opened the winners' account in the very sixth minute from a planned attack. Mizan after receiving a ball on the right flank fed Mamun Joarder, who from the line sent a perfect cross to

Gaus deep into the Bank box. And Gaus made no mistake slotting the ball home past Manu. Undaunted by the setback the Bankers pressed for an equaliser with their midfielder Montu playing the sheet anchor role in every attack. In the 31st minute Sentu delivered a perfect through to medio Munna whose scorching low drive was superbly blocked by Muktijoddha's Rumi Rizvi Karim. Shortly after the breather Agrani Bank were deprived on yet another occasion when their striker Tutul headed a Bachchu floater from the left wide off the mark. After surviving those close calls Muktijoddha then scored their second goal through Mizan in the 65th minute. The lanky forward latching on to a Zakir through shook off the Agrani Bank custodian Manu before stabbed the ball into an open net. It was Mizan's third goal in the current

league. He had earlier, scored two goals in his side's 3-0 win over Rahmatganj. The win now left Muktijoddha to collect seven points from three league engagements while Agrani Bank remained content with their previous collection of one point after three matches. Muktijoddha's substitute Rana was the only player cautioned with yellow card in a rather fairly contested match played under floodlights. TEAMS MUKTIJODDHA SANGSAD KC: Arun, Barun (Emdadul), Moon, Kingsuk, Masud Rana, Zakir, Rumi (Rana), Mamun Joarder, Rakib, Gaus and Mizan. AGRANI BANK SC: Manu, Kala, Rafique, Pons (Nayan), Bachchu, Sentu, Munna, Moin (Tipu), Rajani, Jahangir and Tutul (Akhter). Referee: Ram Krishna Gosh.

Akram mauls Northants

LONDON, July 11: Wasim Akram grabbed seven wickets for 73 to steer Lancashire to a 24-point victory over Britannic assurance championship joint leaders Northamptonshire at Old Trafford today, reports AFP. Lancashire moved to within 32 points of Northants and Warwickshire with their fifth win of the season and their Pakistan Test all-rounder boasted: "We can win the title." Akram ended with match figures of 10 for 172 as the visitors were bowled out for 194 in their second innings to slump to their second defeat of the season by 233 runs. Northants had resumed their second innings on 29 for one, needing an improbable 428 for victory. Richard Blakey hit an unbeaten 27 off just 29 deliveries — and shared a seventh-wicket stand of 36 in four overs with Peter Hartley — to steer Yorkshire to a three-wicket victory over Hampshire with only five balls remaining. Yorkshire were set 264 to win in 64 overs at Southampton after Hampshire had earlier slumped to 265 all out after resuming 164 ahead with seven second-innings wickets remaining. Hartley took five for 56 to end with match figures of nine for 165 while spinner Richard Stemp finished with four for 68. Essex spinners Peter Such (five for 79) and John Childs (four for 55)



AKRAM ... the wrecker

condemned bottom-of-the-table Surrey to their fifth defeat in seven matches at the Oval. Such took five for 22 in a spell of 13.5 overs either side of lunch to dismiss the hosts for 203 and set Essex a victory target of 148 runs. The visitors lost three wickets — all to slow left-arm bowler Richard Nowell — but then first-innings century makers Mark Waugh (59 no) and Ronnie Irani (61 no) steered Essex to 151 for three and victory by seven wickets with 13 overs to spare. Pioneer soccer results Sports Reporter Rainbow AC earned a 2-1 victory over Kendriyo Kishore Kafela in the Pioneer Division football league, while the other two matches of the day were locked in draws. Khokan Das opened the Rainbow account from an early sixth minute strike, while Shaju doubled the margin in the 47th minute. Mamun reduced the margin for the Kafela scoring only two minutes from the final whistle. Meanwhile, another match between Azimpur Kishore Sangha and K R Boys played at the same Rajuk ground adjacent to the Dhaka Stadium ended in a goalless draw. The only match played at the Dhanmondi Club ground also ended in a draw with both teams scoring once. For, Kallindi KC and Golam Mostafa Lane Kishore Sangha, Sagar Chandra Barman and Sheikh Rakim Uddin scored one goal apiece.

Germany's wonder years

BONN, July 11: Germany praised Steffi Graf and Boris Becker for their performances in the Wimbledon finals today but wondered whether time might be running out for the "wunderkinder" after a golden decade, reports Reuter. Within hours of Graf's victory over Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario on Saturday, German television asked whether the nation had witnessed her last Wimbledon triumph because of frustrating back problems. After Becker's defeat by Pete Sampras in Sunday's men's final, some newspapers hinted that both German stars might retire while they were still

at the top. But few relished the prospect because of a lack of new personalities in the game. "Please don't now," the Rankfurter Allgemeine paper pleaded. "The chances of having two new tennis champions of the century like Graf and Becker in the near future is unlikely — not only in Germany. There are few new names anywhere on the horizon." Germany need not worry too much about producing players with its abundance of indoor courts and extensive training programme for youngsters. In most parts of the country it is both cheap and easy for a seven-year-old to take up the game.

But Becker's first Wimbledon triumph as a teenager in 1985 and Graf's continued success at the championships fuelled the tennis boom of the 1980s. It will be difficult for any new German to match their impact on the domestic game. The nation enjoyed watching the two stars grow up. Becker into a dotting father and Graf into a successful model whose looks have been used to advertise everything from pasta to deodorant. Parting would be such sweet sorrow. But the biggest-selling newspaper Bild said: "Boris, we are crying with you ... millions of people went through your nerves and your hopes yesterday, in vain."



SPRITILY SPIKERS: Nabajatok Majlish became the unbeaten champions of the NBL Second Division volleyball league yesterday. — Star photo

Nabajatok NBL Div II v'ball champs

Sports Reporter Nabajatok Majlish finished as unbeaten champions in the NBL Second Division volleyball league and will be promoted to the NBL First Division league next year. They recorded a comfortable 15-5, 15-6, 15-6 win over Parters Club in the lone and their last league engagement played at the court adjacent to the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. The teams finishing last in the points table from the two different groups will meet each other in a relegation play-off. ELEMETS REIGN In the First Division league three matches were postponed due to inclement weather. In the other two matches, Dhaka Shabuj defeated East End Club 15-3, 15-5, 15-9, while Bangladesh Police beat Bangladesh Bank Club 15-10, 15-11, 12-15, 15-7 in the day's last billing. The top five finishers from two groups will play in the Premier Division league next year.

Border delays the inevitable

BRISBANE, July 11: Former Australia captain Allan Border has delayed his retirement from first-class cricket for at least another year, Queensland Cricket Association chief executive Barry Richards said today, reports Reuter. Border will play for champions Queensland in the domestic Sheffield Shield inter-state competition next season after informing officials of his availability, Richards said. Border, who turns 40 later this month, spent the off-season considering his future after fulfilling an ambition to help Queensland lift the Shield title for the first time in the state's history. The veteran left-hander retired from the international arena 14 months ago, ending a Test career spanning 156 Test matches, including 93 as captain. "Allan gave no indication that he last as a player," Richards told Reuters. "I think he is just taking it year-by-year."

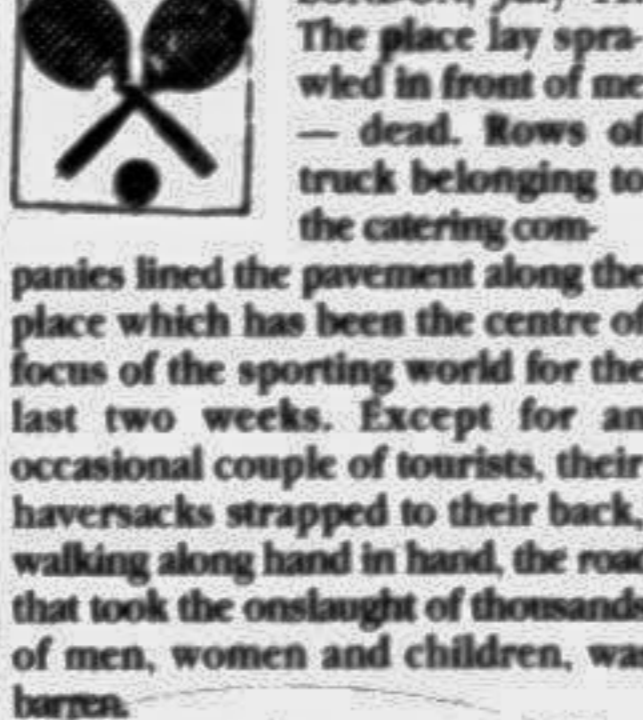
Batting in the middle-order, Border scored 911 first-class runs last season, at an average of 65.07, as Queensland broke a drought dating back to 1926-27 by beating South Australia in the Shield final in March. Queensland will begin the defence of their Shield title in October. Muster's purple patch checked GSTAAD, Switzerland, July 11: Austrian Thomas Muster's 40-match winning run was finally ended by unseeded Spaniard Alex Corretja on Monday in the Swiss Open tennis tournament, reports Reuter. Top seed Muster, the French Open champion who has — seven tournament wins on clay this year, went down 7-5, 6-1 in the first round of the \$60,000-dollar event. The Austrian, who opted not to play Wimbledon in order to prepare for Gstaad's clay court tournament, was never allowed to take command on his favourite surface. Corretja, ranked 23rd in the world, needed just over an hour to eliminate Muster whose upset defeat has opened the way for Spanish defending champion Sergi Bruguera to secure a fourth successive Gstaad title. Bruguera, a double French Open winner, is seeded third behind Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov.

Subtle change

TIRANA, July 11: Three points will be awarded for an away win in Albania next season but home victories will still be worth two points, the Albanian Soccer Association decided at the weekend, reports Reuter.

WINDOW ON WIMBLEDON

From Tawfiq Aziz Khan



LONDON, July 11: The place lay sprawled in front of me — dead. Rows of trucks belonging to the catering companies lined the pavement along the place which has been the centre of focus of the sporting world for the last two weeks. Except for an occasional couple of tourists, their haversacks strapped to their back, walking along hand in hand, the road that took the onslaught of thousands of men, women and children, was barren. The special taxi service and bus service had disappeared and I had to make my journey from the Southfields station, on the regular bus service that takes passengers to Putney Bridge Tube station to Wimbledon. The souvenir shops that adorned the Wimbledon Park Road doing good business in T-shirts and other small items of mementos, wound up their makeshift shops, except one or two, still selling items to a thin clientele. Workmen were all over the place bringing down the canopies and tents that stood as the marquees for the last two weeks. Inside many of the essential articles were being packed and loaded on to trolleys and trucks for their journey home. Busy officials who hoped in running the show rummaged through piles of paper and thousand and one drawers and bureaus before the janitors started their cleaning up operations. It was as if the Gulliver had gone to sleep and the Lilliputs were probing an unusual thing. For the fourth year in a row the Americans had lifted the most prestigious trophy in the world. Agassi did it

1992 and Sampras wrote his name in history books. Goran Ivanisevic once again proved that there was much to it than serving aces. He was third time unlucky as he crashed out in the semifinal in what was the best match of the championships. Andre Agassi was cruising along nice and easy until he met a German named Boris Becker. An easy first set victory did not give any indication to Agassi what was in store for him. The number one seed was amazed at the craftsmanship of Becker and occasionally put on a dry smile at his own errors. Becker himself was driven to the edge by a Frenchman, Cedric Pioline. He was not in the top sixteen players, yet he produced remarkable tennis but finally bowed down to the nerve and experience of Becker. Of the sixteen seeds Sergei Bruguera (8) withdrew from the contest that left the field of 15 seeds, of which Michael Stich (9) of Germany, Richard Krajicek (12) of the Netherlands and M Rosset (10) of Switzerland made their premature exit in the first round. Andre Medvedev (15) of the Ukraine, Jim Courier (11) of USA, Stefan Edberg of Sweden, a former champion and a very strong player, Michael Chang (5) of the USA, a gritty fighter, and Guy Forget (16), an experienced Frenchman who had his last Wimbledon all went out in the second round. Jacco Eltingh of the Netherlands, Cedric Pioline of France and Shuzo Matsuoka were the three unseeded players in the quarterfinals. The Netherlands had a crop of five good players of which Siemink went up to third round and Eltingh lifted his game to reach the last eight round. Britain have something to talk

about. Out of a complement of ten players including Jeremy Bates only their new boy Greg Rusedski made it to the fourth round. With a very strong serve and superb sporting attitude he is likely to travel far in his career. There were thirteen from the Down Under, a country which ruled the world tennis scene for so many years including Wimbledon. Only Woodford and Woodbridge made it to the third round. Former champion Pat Cash crashed out in the first round. Women's tennis is still dominated by the known few so much so that all the eight who reached the quarterfinals stage were the seeded ones. Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario made her first final on grass and lost to determined Steffi Graf in a thrilling final. There were lot of interest surrounding 14-year-old M Hingis of Switzerland and Chanda Rubin of the USA. Hingis won the Girls' Singles title last year. But she was bulldozed by Graf in the first round. Rubin made it to the third round but was finally defeated by Anke Huber of Germany, the 9th seed. In the absence of Bruguera the Spanish Armada was led by Vicario who was seeded number two in the women's field. She accounted for the number three seed, 1994 champion and her compatriot Conchita Martinez. The other Spanish entry was N Avila who was flushed out in the first round. The weather was bright and warm, so much so that British journalists have started asking why should Britons go to Spain for sunshine? More than 384 thousand spectators enjoyed the Championships.



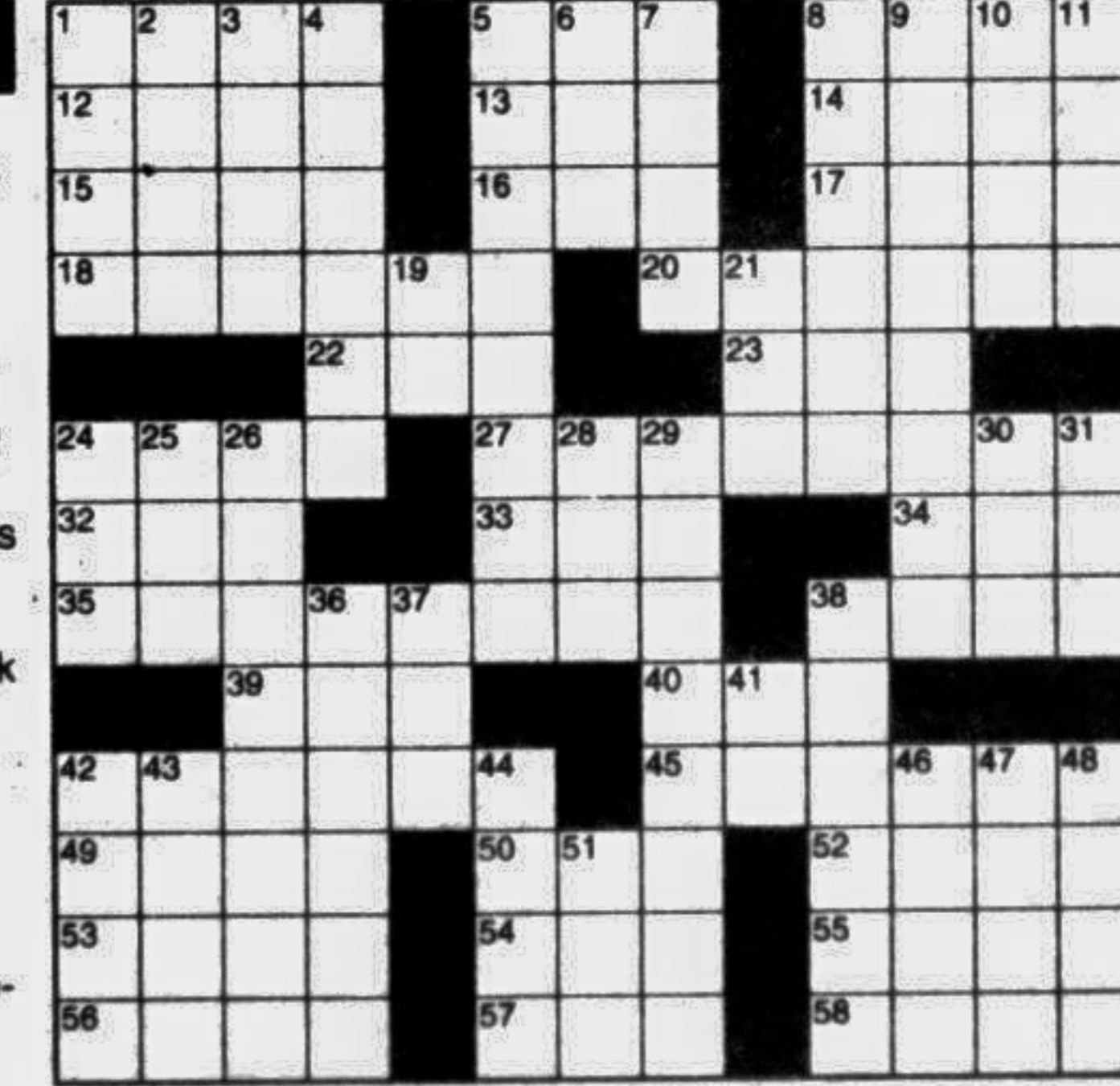
Action from the NBL Second Division volleyball league encounter between Dhaka Sabuj Club and East End Club at the court adjacent to the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. Dhaka Sabuj won the match 15-3, 15-5, 15-9 to become champions. — Star photo

Lotus-Kamal Div II cricket

Sports Reporter Udayachal Club, Indira Road KC and Mirpur No 4 Ward CC won their respective matches of the Lotus-Kamal Second Division qualifying cricket league at different venues in the capital yesterday. As rain played supreme on most of the day all the three matches were reduced to a 15-over-a-side engagements. At the city club ground Udayachal Club recorded a thumping nine-wicket win over Anirban Sangha. Scat into bat, Anirban Sangha managed to score 81 for seven in their share of 15 overs. Jillar hit a quick-fire 25 off 20 balls and Tariqul with 20 was the other notable run-getter for Anirban Sangha. Faruque of Udayachal claimed two wickets for 17. In reply, opener Anwar with an unbeaten 38 steered Udayachal to victory 82 in 12.3 overs for the loss of one wicket. At the Jagannath Hall ground, Indira Road KC crushed Poison CC by 10 wickets. Batting first Poison CC were bundled out for a 62 in 14.3 overs. Sajib with 24 was the top scorer for Poison CC. Shakib and Titu of Indira Road KC ripped through the opponents batting lineup capturing three wickets apiece. Set to score 63 for a victory Indira CC rattled up the required runs in 12 overs with both openers Sumar and Masud contributing 28 and 22 respectively. In the other match of the day at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Mirpur Ward No 4 CC beat Lords CC by six wickets. Electing to use the wicket first Lords CC could muster only 62 for seven in the stipulated 15 overs. Mamun with 16 was the only notable run-getter for Lords. Liton grabbed three wickets and Tareque took two for the Mirpur bowlers.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Offer a hand? 5 Sample the sherry 8 "Hand-some — handsome does" 12 Mata — 13 Guitar's kin 14 Hold the scepter 15 16th-c. Eng. queen 16 Fresh 17 Footballer's trouble spot 18 Boored 20 Maybe he got in the whey 22 "What Kind of Fool —?" 23 "Swinging — Star" 24 Not even come close 27 Gave out tasks 32 Old French coin 33 Bud's partner 34 Cartoon caveboy 35 "Enoch Arden" poet 38 Tempo 39 Spelldown 40 Resort 42 Modifies to suit 45 Sand trap or waterhole, e.g. 49 Prot. branch 50 "Caught ya!" 52 Met melody 53 Carolina county 54 Atheist's lack 55 Associate Solution time: 23 mins. MAMA FOO AJAR AGES LAX DUSE RUSHMORE ANTI YAHOO NOGGIN ROAD REF SAFE SOME ROI EMU CANIS AWL TAJ OPEN DUEL IGO EXPO PAYOLA SWORD OVAL MCKINLEY MIME POI ELSE EDAM SON RATS



CRYPTOQUIP KRMDOPCPC, KAU OGKR DIOKCD XOUMKIR, NOM YOXRGM YRI KAIRNCPW KUXTR KOPKIGXM Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AUTO-SCHOOL TEACHER DROPPED BEGINNING STUDENT BECAUSE HE'LL STOP AT NOTHING. Today's Cryptoquip clue: K equals T 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.