

Column One

DID U KNOW?

(The Professor does)

THAT prayers in some form has always been part of games and sports. The Rio Preto goalkeeper of Brazil made it a point to kneel in prayer under the crosspiece before a match. This was one prayer not answered because, in a match against the Corinthians at Bahia Stadium, Roberto Rivelino scored within three seconds of kick-off while the custodian Isadore Irandir was still knelt in prayer.

During the 1968 Cedars Rally in Lebanon, the driver of a Volvo, Gerry Phillips was being assisted by two Lebanese navigators. As Phillips was driving extremely fast to make up for lost time, turning at hairpin bends, skidding in the process, one of the navigators was begging Phillips to remember that he had eight children. The other Lebanese was on his knees in the back seat, praying.

"Please, Mr. Phillips," the Lebanese implored, "do not fall over the edge, or we'll fall into Israel."

Our footballers, some of them, are known to be under the influence of different peers. If the result is positive, as predicted by "peer shahab", he is known to frequent the club after the match. On the other hand, if the result is "garbar", the hallowed person is nowhere to be seen.

SPORTS TALK



Paulo Rossi

Italian soccer star, on his 1,664,000 pounds transfer fee (1978)

"It would have been better if I had been appraised a bit less, and the rest of the money had gone to housing or some other project."

Sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN (The rules are published every Saturday).

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-4. Tick the Correct Answer

(Competition closes: 8 p.m. Sept 15, 1995)

Table with 5 questions and multiple choice options for sports trivia.

Name: _____ Class: _____ Roll No: _____ School Address: _____ Phone: (if any) _____

Nat'l hockey semis today

Both the semifinals of the 17th national hockey championship will be held today at the Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protishthan (BKSP) at Savar, reports UNB.

Five times champions Dhaka DSA will take on Dhaka University in the first semi at 2:30 pm while holders Bangladesh Army play hosts BKSP at 3:45 pm.

The final match will be held on Friday at 3:30 pm. State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeque Hossain is expected to be the chief guest at the final.

Libya withdraw from World Military Games

ROME, Sept 12: Libya, threatened with expulsion from the World Military Games here for conducting anti-American propaganda, on Monday finally pulled out of the event, reports AFP.



Farashganj custodian Bijoy tries to fend away a header by Mohammedans' Nigerian recruit Bode Baba (12) during their Lifebuoy Premier Division encounter at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. The black and whites won by a thumping 4-1 margin. — Star photo

Ranjan relives sensation

Sports Reporter

A brilliant hat-trick from national striker Shahidul Ahmed Ranjan steered Mohammedan Sporting Club to their tenth victory in the ongoing Lifebuoy Premier Division football league last night when they beat Farashganj Sporting Club by a convincing 4-1 margin at the Dhaka Stadium.

Besides Ranjan's awesome hat-trick, Russian booter Andrei Kazakov notched up the other goal for Mohammedans while Shafiqul Kader Munna pulled back one for the old town outfit.

With the highest margin victory in the league this year, black and whites now set themselves atop the point-table for the first time. The DMFA and Federation Cup champions now have earned 36 points from 15 matches which has kept their hopes alive for a rare treble with a 3-point adrift of arch-rivals and defending champions Abahani KC, who have collected 33 points from 14 matches.

On the other hand, it was the seventh defeat for the Farashganj boys, who remained stuck to their previous collection of 10 points from 15 outings.

Mohammedans, who also won their first leg encounter against Farashganj 1-0 with a controversial penalty, were in a good shape yesterday with a 2-0 lead in the first half.

With an inform Ranjan, who have finally come out of his pale shadow, and three foreign recruits — Ladi Baba, Bode Baba of Nigeria and Kazakov, Mohammedans dominated the proceedings through-out.

Skipper Manik set up the first scoring opportunity for Kazakov in the second minute with a neat corner from the right. But the robust Russian spoiled the chance shooting straight into the hands of Farashganj cus-

todian Bijan. Kazakov missed again after eleven minutes when he failed to respond a Bode Baba cross from the close.

Mohammedan's midfielder magician Alfaz could have easily put his side ahead in the 15th minute following a Kazakov through. But his shot from the left went wide off

the margin after nine minutes into the game with a fierce left-footer following an Alfaz square from the right.

After the breather Farashganj, taking the advantage of relaxing MSC defence, pulled back one goal as early as in the eighth minute into second half with former MSC forward Munna heading home an accurately cross from substitute Alok.

After conceding the goal, Mohammedans woke up and returned to the match firing on all their four cylinders.

Two minutes later Ranjan scored his second goal of the day with get another magnificent left-foot grounder from top of the box receiving a Kazakov through from the midfield.

The dazzling hat-trick came for Ranjan 21 minutes into the second half when he started his dream run after receiving a short pass from Parvez. With a consummate ease he broke through the Farashganj defence and footed the substitute custodian Nowshad with a neat angular right-footer which deflected home hitting the inner edge of left side post.

Earlier Agrani Bank forward Tutul scored the first hat-trick of the league against Wari Club during the first leg. Mohammedans will now face star-studded Muktiyodha Sangsad Krira Chakra in their next outing, billed for September 19.

Yellow card: Ratan (Farashganj)

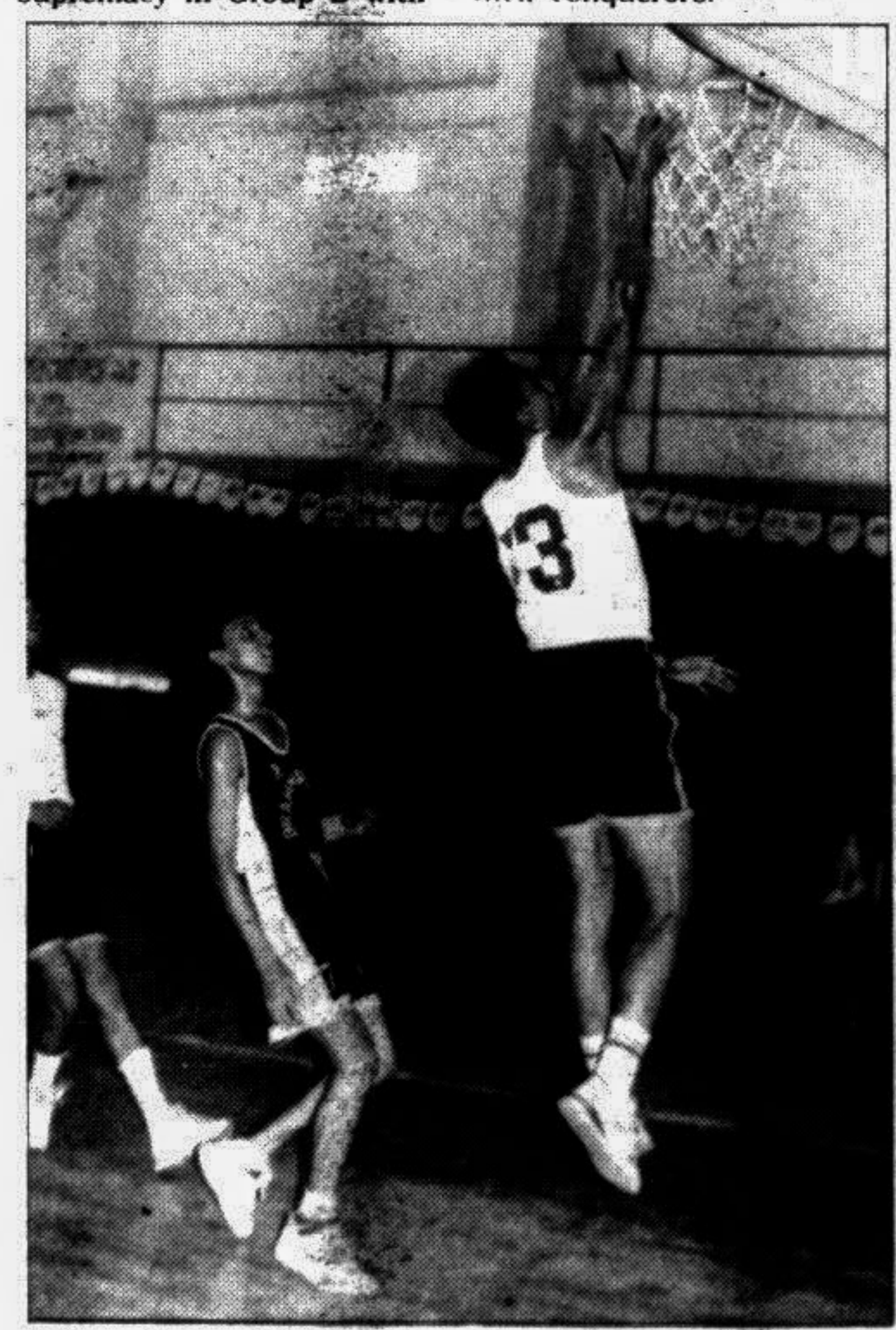
TEAMS

MOHAMMEDAN SC: Panir, Ruhul Amin (Alamgir), Jewel Rana, Kaiser Hamid, Parvez, Manik (Sunny), Alfaz, Ladi Baba (Zahid), Bode Baba, Kazakov and Ranjan. FARASHGANJ SC: Bijoy (Nowshad), Nazrul, Abu Sufian, Santosh (Manik), Sagar, Shah Alam, Selim, Akram, Ratan, Ritu (Alok) and Munna. Referee: Kamaruddin (Malaysia).

Pepsi nat'l basketball Dhaka DSA move into semis

Sports Reporter

offensive, caging 26 while BDR's Ayub did his reputation full justice with 33 points to his name. Army reiterated their supremacy in Group B with yesterday's triumph, their fifth in as many outings, while the defeat was the first for the BDR. They finished second in the group behind their conquerors.



Action from a Pepsi 18th national basketball championship encounter between Jessore DSA and Brahmanbaria DSA held at the Dhanmondi Gymnasium yesterday. Jessore DSA won the match 83-54. — Star photo

East End, Eskaton split points

Sports Reporter

Leaders East End Club and relegation-threatened Eskaton Sabuj Sangha played out a three-all draw in one of the two Lifebuoy First Division football league encounters at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

The title contenders had to deal with quite a scare when they were down 0-2 at half time and 1-3 by the 64th minute. But two goals in the last nine minutes enabled them to salvage a draw. Liton in the 81st minute and Harun, four minutes from time, provided the old towners with the face-saving strikes.

Earlier, Abid let the flood-gates open for a rare goalfeast when he opened the account for the Eskaton outfit with a 18th minute strike. Tipu doubled the margin three minutes before the lemon break. Nepalese national team skipper Raju Shakya pulled one back for East End in the 57th minute before Tipu scored his second goal of the game seven minutes later to make sure that the leaders sweat for a draw.

The result enabled East End to increase their lead by a point with 28 points from 15 matches to their name. Eskaton have 12 points from their fifteen outings. In the other match of the day, Shadharan Bima Krira Sangha split points with Police AC in a seemingly friendly encounter. The game ended goalless.

Switzerland may face punishment

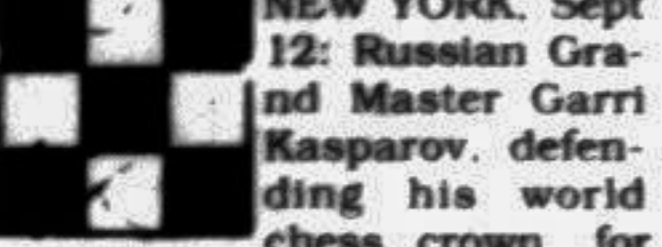
GENEVA, Sept 12: Switzerland received a clear indication from UEFA on Monday they could be punished after some of their players at a European Championship qualifying match staged a protest against France's resumption of nuclear tests, reports Reuter. A group of Swiss players unfurled a banner saying "stop it Chirac" during the playing of the national anthems before the start of the qualifier against Sweden in Gothenburg last Wednesday.

A statement issued by UEFA (the European Football Union) on Monday said: "According to the statutes of UEFA, it is not in the spirit of football to use the game for racial, religious or political purposes. Therefore any breaches will be punished."

TODAY'S FIXTURES

- Lifebuoy Premier Division football league: Muktiyodha Sangsad vs Brothers Union 5:30 pm (Dhaka Stadium). Lifebuoy First Division football league: East End Club vs Badda Jagarani 4:30 pm. PWD SC vs Victoria SC 6:30 pm (Mirpur Stadium). 17th National hockey championship (Semifinals, Venue: BKSP): Dhaka University vs Dhaka DSA 2:30 pm. Bangladesh Army vs BKSP 3:45 pm. Pepsi 18th national basketball championship (Semifinals, Venue: Dhanmondi Gymnasium): Bangladesh Navy vs Bangladesh Rifles 3:30pm. Dhaka DSA vs Bangladesh Army 5 pm.

Kasparov, Anand draw Game 1



NEW YORK, Sept 12: Russian Grand Master Garry Kasparov, defending his world chess crown for the fifth time, on Monday agreed to a draw in the first game of his championship match against Viswanathan Anand of India, report agencies.

Kasparov, 32, playing with the black pieces in his favourite Scheveningen variation of the Sicilian defence, shook hands on the half point with Anand after 27 moves of their game on the 107th floor observation deck of the World Trade Centre.

Kasparov has used the Scheveningen system with success over the years, most notably in title matches of

the 1980s against fellow-Russian Anatoly Karpov and once against Britain's Nigel Short in London in 1993.

"Playing with the black pieces is very dangerous in the first game. It's lots of pressure," Kasparov told reporters after the game. "I thought a draw would be a good result." He had 17 minutes remaining to make 13 moves and Anand had 22 minutes.

The game began in a flurry of 12 moves, with Kasparov playing the Sicilian defence. Both players developed their pieces in what American Grand Master Patrick Wolff described as "trench warfare" until move 18, when an aggressive bishop move from the challenger tried to prod open Kasparov's defences.

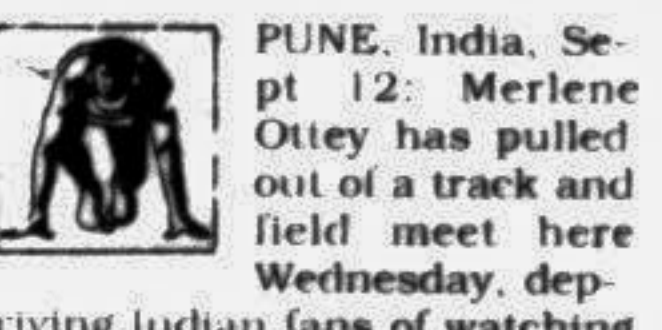
Refusing to be provoked, Kasparov traded pieces in the centre of the board to gain a small but enduring edge.

"Kasparov outplayed Anand very subtly," said former US champion Yasser Seirawan. In an evenly-balanced contest watched by hundreds of spectators on a platform adorned with flags and lined with video screens showing the players and demonstration boards, the 25-year-old challenger could not quite take advantage of the white pieces, similar to having the serve in tennis.

Spectators paid 15 dollars rather than the customary six dollars to visit the observation deck.

The second game is scheduled for today with Kasparov playing white.

Pune meet to miss Ottey



PUNE, India, Sept 12: Merlene Ottey has pulled out of a track and field meet here Wednesday, depriving Indian fans of watching the next act in her acrimonious roadshow with arch-rival Gwen Torrence, reports AFP.

The Jamaican sprint queen, who was among the first athletes to confirm her participation in the one-day event, cancelled her trip after suffering a leg injury in a Grand Prix meet in Berlin earlier this month.

The Ottey-Torrence duel was expected to be the showpiece of the invitational meet, projected by Indian track and field officials as part of their campaign to host a lucrative Grand Prix event next year.

"It's a pity that Ottey injured herself and cannot run here," said Suresh Kalmadi, the meet's organiser. "Everyone was looking forward to her clash with Torrence."

The bitter rivalry between the two sprint champions bogged the limelight at last month's World Championships in Gothenberg, Sweden, when Torrence won the 200 metres but was dis-

qualified for cutting lanes. Ottey, who finished second, accused Torrence of cheating but the American had her revenge by winning the 100 metres and later anchored the United States to victory in the 4x100m relay.

Kalmadi said that along with Torrence he had also secured the participation of the world's fastest man, Donovan Bailey of Canada, who won the 100m sprint at

Gothenberg.

Other world champions taking part are Lars Riedel of Germany (discus), Andrey

Abduvaliyev of Tajikistan (Hammer throw), Hassiba Boulmerka of Algeria (women's 1,500m) and Ellina Zvereva of Belarus (women's discus).

The star parade is completed by Olympic 1,500m gold medalist William Tani of Kenya, Samuel Metete of Zambia, who came second in the 400m hurdles at Gothenberg and Pauline Davis of Bahamas, second in the women's 400m.

Kalmadi said some 100 foreign athletes from 20 countries had confirmed their participation in the annual meet, which in the past has attracted giants like Carl Lewis, Michael Johnson and Sergei Bubka.

Kalmadi, a Member of Parliament, said he had received indications from the International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF) that New Delhi and Tokyo are expected to figure on the Grand Prix circuit next year.

"A final decision will be taken by the IAAF in the next few weeks, but we are confident that India will be one of the venues," he said.

New Delhi hosted the Asian Games in 1982 and the Asian track and field meet in 1989.

Harare raises incentives

HARARE, Sept 12: Hosts Zimbabwe have promised cash incentives to their own athletes in the sixth All-Africa Games as they seek to utilise home ground advantage to make their mark on African sport, reports Reuter.

While other countries on the continent have produced a succession of world and Olympic champions, there has been scant international success for athletes from this landlocked, Central African nation.

The prizes announced by President Robert Mugabe at the weekend may be paltry in comparison with those on offer at international meetings but they are large for people in this cash-strapped state.

"Our athletes have to excel at this tournament," he said. "It is because of that we have seen it fit to reward those who do well for Zimbabwe."

Individual gold medal winners will receive Z 20,000 dollars (US dollars 2,326), silver medalists Z 15,000 dollars (US dollars 1,744) and Z 10,000 dollars (US dollars 1,163) for those who win bronze.

Team rewards, to be

shared among those taking part, are Z 100,000 dollars (US dollars 11,628) for gold, Z 75,000 dollars (US dollars 8,721) for silver and Z 50,000 dollars (US dollars 5,814) for bronze.

But it is unlikely to cost the country's exchequer a great deal with African giants Kenya and Nigeria and newcomers South Africa expected to dominate the 10-day tournament which opens on Wednesday and which has attracted over 5,000 athletes and officials from 48 states.

Kenya appeared especially confident of success. "It

doesn't matter who comes (in the team). Anybody who comes from Kenya is a winner," said team official Adison Chemukwaka on Monday.

Apart from Kenya, the strongest entries look to come from South Africa, who are sending a 364-strong team, and Nigeria, with 360.

Zimbabwean authorities have waived visa requirements to allow smooth entry for athletes and officials but they have also tightened internal security with police on alert country-wide to weed out car thieves, drug peddlers and illegal foreign exchange dealers.

Haile to skip Johnson floors Pacheco

HARARE, Sept 12: Ethiopian world record holder Haile Gebreselassie has turned down a last minute plea to compete in the All Africa Games which open here Wednesday, reports AFP.

The appeal came late last week when Ethiopian officials sent an urgent fax to the athletics star in Monte Carlo where he was running in the Grand Prix final.

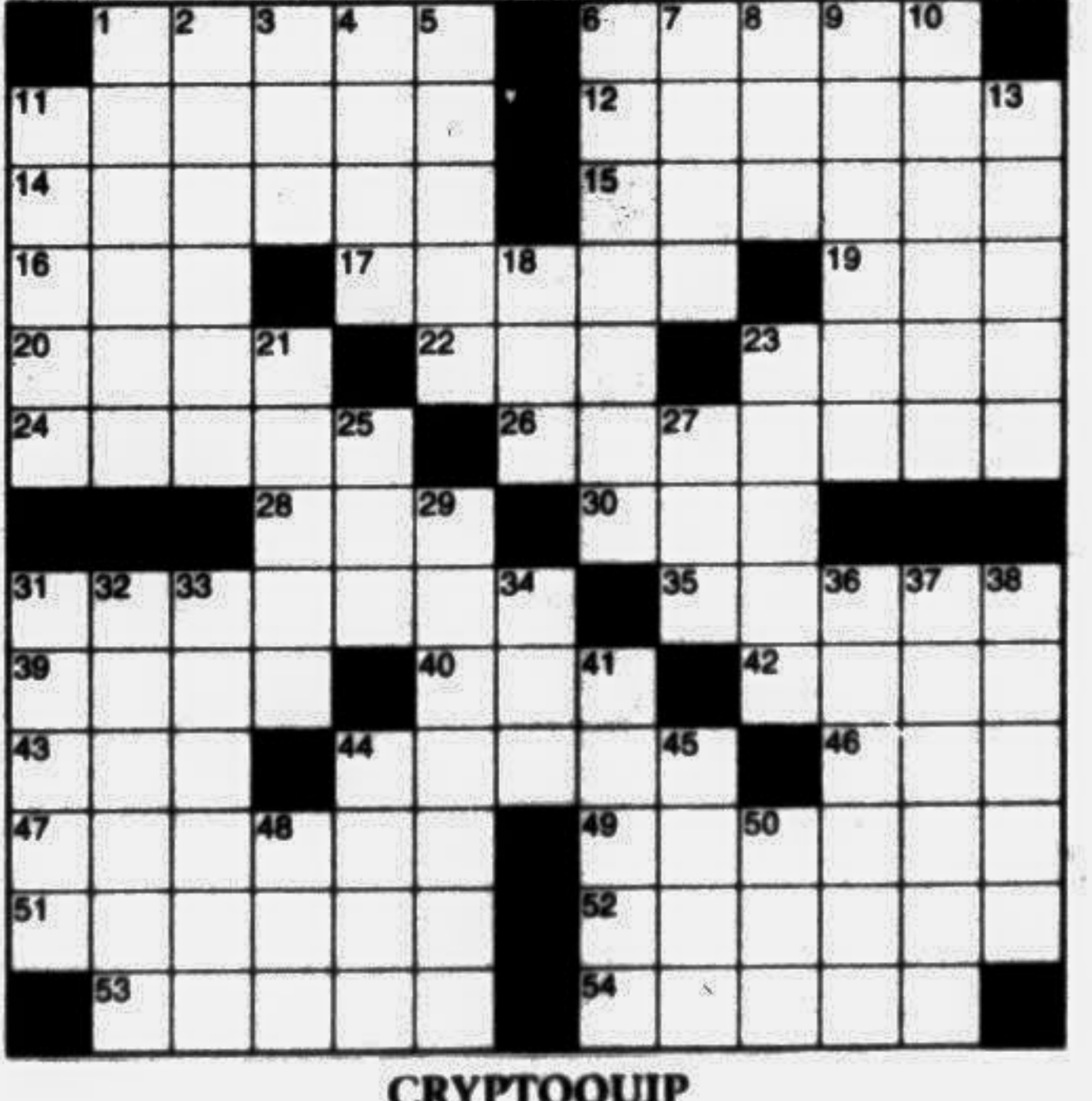
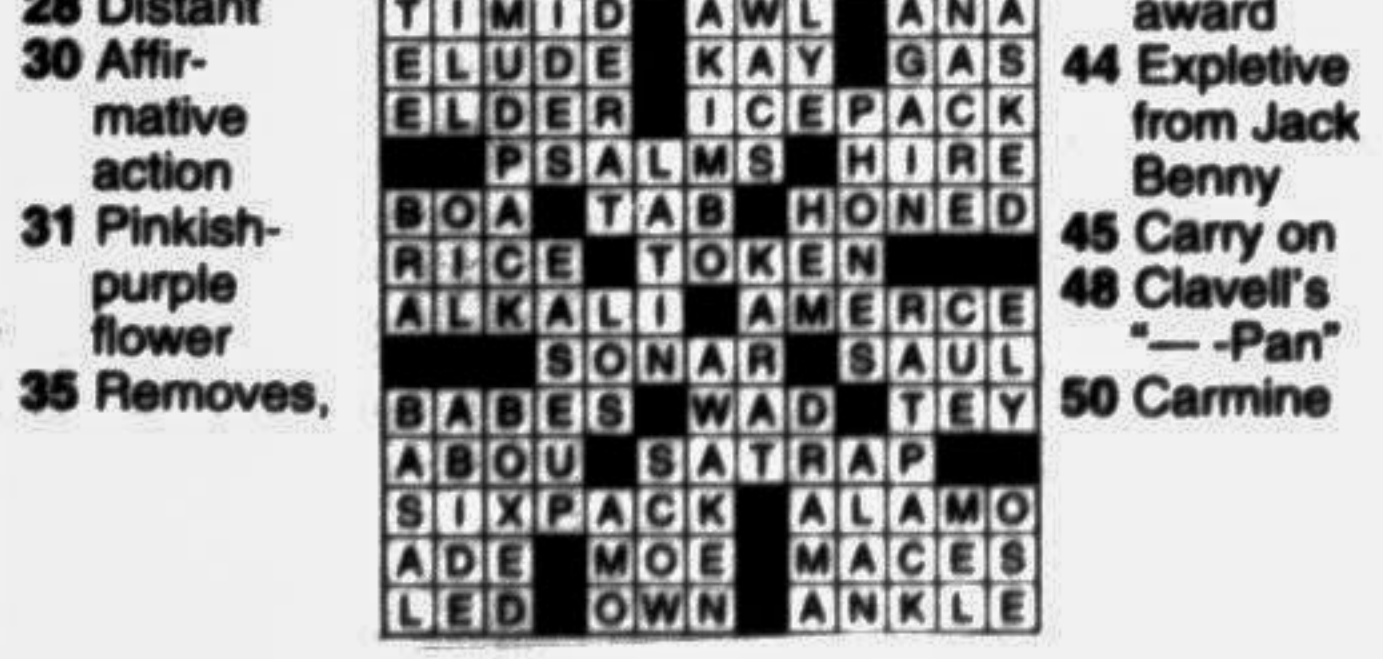
INGLEWOOD, California, Sept 12: Flyweight Mark Johnson, the WBC's second-ranked contender, stopped Mexico's Marcos Pacheco in the fourth round Monday night for his 25th straight victory, reports AP.

Johnson of Washington improved to 26-1 with his 18th knockout. He weighed 112 1/2 pounds for the scheduled 10-round bout at the Forum.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS: 1 Parade, 6 Is indirect, 11 Partake at Atlantic City, 12 Devoid of variety, 14 Rare-earth element, 15 Stermutation, 16 Up to, briefly, 17 Diamond corners, 19 Cacophony, 20 Change for a five, 22 "Platoon" locale, 23 On in years, 24 Bottom, 26 Sadden, 28 Distant, 30 Affirmative action, 31 Pinkish-purple flower, 35 Removes, as a cap, 39 Charity, 40 Group of whales, 42 Hold the scepter, 43 Spanish uncle, 44 Use the hose, 46 Scratch, 47 Devonshire city, 49 Brave, 51 Indecent, 52 Get back at, 53 Fencing material, 54 Sill. DOWN: 1 Docking area, 2 Sauntered, 3 Bat stat., 4 Organization, 5 Macho type, 6 Creche trio, 7 Hostels, 8 Dundee, 9 Coat with flour, 10 Name-sakes of the fictional, 11 Board, 13 Ministers, 18 Blue, 21 Uses a winnow, 23 Elan, 25 Gallery outcry, 27 Spacecraft compartment, 29 Give mine to Broadway, 31 Misanthropy, for one, 32 Panacea, 33 Microscope view, 34 Snitch, 36 Angry, 37 Projecting rim, 38 Suit material, 41 Military award, 44 Expletive from Jack Benny, 45 Carry on, 48 Clavell's "-Pan", 50 Carmine.

Solution time: 28 mins.



CRYPTOQUIP

Q R V Q W C E K U Q E V Q C Q Y E Q C N J R C W U D I "Z W D D R Z Z E Q V N P X" E V W F R T K F D T X W Y R Q P E X W C.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SAID DISPLEASED DAIRY FARMER, AFTER CHICKENS ESCAPED: "THE YOLK'S ON ME."

Today's Cryptoquip clue: F equals G. 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.