

Column One

DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

THAT it is now almost customary for footballers to kiss the scorer after every goal. Such osculatory pecks are common also after a tennis match involving women. You don't, of course, expect Chang kissing Becker; specially since after losing.

But, these on-field, after LIVE, kisses are minuscule considering one records in this rather enjoyable sport.

Eddie Leven and Delphine Crha celebrated the breaking of the record for the longest kiss of 17 days nine hours in Chicago, USA on September 24, 1965 with a kiss. In that period of time, a whole football tournament would have been over.

And, on March 8, the same year, John McPherson kissed 4444 women in eight hours in Eldon Square, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. The lucky... he did not score even a single goal before celebrating his 4444 goals.

SPORTS TALK



Shahbaz Ahmed

(Pakistan's living hockey legend)

"Now I will also be remembered as the captain who suffered the worst ever defeat against India."

After losing to India (5-2) in the SAF Games hockey competition.

SPORTS WHIZZ KID COMPETITION FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-24

Tick the Correct Answer

(Competition closes: 8 p.m. Feb 2, 1996)

- 1. The fielder opposite to mid-wicket across the pitch is... 2. Buns - Becker, Brown, Boca... 3. Australian Open Tennis Championship 1996 is hosted by the city of Sydney, Canberra, Melbourne... 4. The World Cup Cricket 1996 opening ceremony will be held in Lahore, Calcutta, Colombo... 5. Mohammedan SC are currently taking part in the IFA Shield, Meridika, Khabsh-Jabar

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

Surjo Tarun outclass City

Sports Reporter

Surjo Tarun Club registered their sixth victory in the Yamaha First Division cricket league when they handed City Club a 15-run defeat at their home ground yesterday. Batting first, Surjo Tarun collected 192 for eight in 45 overs.

On the other hand, hosts City Club were booked in 43.3 overs with only 177 on the board.

BRIEF SCORES

SURJO TARUN CLUB: 192 for eight in 45 overs (Sanjeev Sharma 42, Shaon 38, Dear 31, Kamal 3/27) CITY CLUB: 177 in 43.3 overs (Ishaq 48, Simon 30)

Maghbazar shop well at R'ganj

Sports Reporter

Maghbazar Krira Chakra recorded their second victory in the Progoti Insurance Third Division football league on Thursday defeating Rahmatganj Sporting Club 3-1 at the Rajuk ground.

Striker Anisul Islam netted twice and Siddique scored the other goal for the winners while Omar reduced the margin for Rahmatganj.

The win raised Maghbazar's tally to nine points from five matches while Rahmatganj have only two points to their account.

The day's other match between Fire Service and BG Press ended in a 1-1 draw.



Brothers' opener Abid Hanif actuates a copy-book forward defensive shot yesterday.

— Star photo

Brothers thrash Victoria

Sports Reporter

BRIEF SCORES

VICTORIA SC: 153 in 50 overs (Nahid 40, Ekramul Islam 39, Sajid Hassan 35; Sajal 3/15, Aamir Hanif 3/21) BROTHERS UNION: 154/2 in 31.1 overs (Bidyut 56, Abid Hanif 47, Sanwar 28 n.o.)

Title Contenders Brothers Union ended their first phase campaign of the Premier cricket league on a winning note when the Gopibagh based outfit handed Victoria Sporting Club a crushing eight-wicket defeat at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

With this resounding victory, Brothers, who had earlier confirmed their berth in the six-team super league, finished second behind league leaders Mohammedan Sporting Club collecting 16 points from their 11 league engagements.

In the day's match Brothers' young right-arm seamer Sajal Chowdhury and Pakistani international Aamir Hanif ripped through the opponents' top and middle-order as Victoria sent into bat in the morning, were skittled out for a paltry 153.

Sajal, a product of the BRSP and trained in the famous MRF pace bowling foundation, was the wrecker-in-

chief claiming three wickets for only 15 runs in his nine economic overs.

The stout speedster first removed opener Mehrib Hossain Opee (2) in the fifth over and then took the scalp of gangling Al-Shariar Rokon for 10 reducing Victoria to two for 28 in 10.5 overs.

Aamir Hanif, the Pakistani middle-order bat and a very useful medium fast bowler, then began the demolition from where Sajal had left, leaving Victoria, who after having failed to qualify for the super league had relinquished the services of former Indian Test player Chetan Sharma and Rajinder Singh, reeling at 71 for six in 26.5 overs.

Aamir, the elder of the Hanif duo playing for Brothers and who is very deceptive off the pitch, finished with an enviable analysis of 10-4-21-3.

Only opener Sajid Hassan, who stood firm against a marauding Brothers attack, scored a patient 35 off 61 balls, followed by a gritty 72 runs partnership for the seventh wicket between Abul Hasan Nahid and Ekramul Islam that gave the Victoria total some respectability.

Nahid scored a plucky 40 off 67 balls, while Ekramul chipped in with 39.

In reply, Brothers Union, facing a simple task of scoring a little over than 3.5 runs per over for an outright win, were given a rollicking start

by their openers Shariar Hossain Bidyut and Abid Hanif.

The two, who provided the pace in the first fifteen overs, shared 107 runs in only 18.4 overs before Bidyut departed for a sparkling 56 off 63 deliveries punctuated by eight hits across the rope. It was his fourth fifty in the league.

Abid Hanif, who cracked five fours in his polished 67-ball stay at the crease, fell three runs short of what would have been a well-deserved half century when the stockily-built Pakistani edged a catch behind the wicket leaving Brothers comfortably poised with 119 for two.

After the fall of the two quick wickets Sanwar Hossain and Halim Shah propelled their side home without further ado sharing the required 35 runs for the undefeated third wicket.

Victoria's new-ball Tanveer Ahmed Timeer, who conceded 11 runs in a punishing first over, returned in his second spell with some degree of venom to remove both the Brothers openers to finish with two for 37 in his eight overs.

It was Victoria's seventh defeat from their quota of 11 league matches to remain stuck to their earlier collection of eight points. Runners-up in the Damal Summer cricket last season Victoria will play in the relegation league along with five others of the 12-team elite group.

MCC due today

The Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) team arrives in the city today on an 18-day tour to play six matches against Bangladesh cricket teams, reports UNB.

Led by Alan Fordham (captain), the 16-member team will play three limited over one-day internationals in Dhaka, Chittagong and Rajshahi, and one four-day match in Dhaka against the Bangladesh national team.

The MCC team will also play two limited-over matches — in Dhaka against Bangladesh 'A' team and in Sylhet against Bangladesh Under-19 team.

The other team members are Jonathan N Batty, David J Capel, Nicholas R Gaywood, Robert P Gofton, Keith Greenfield, Christopher J Hollins, Angus J Mackay, Colin P Matson, Gordon Morgan, Laurie Potter, Ian D K Salisbury, Nicholas P Tubbe, Kevin C Williams, Donald O Osear (Umpire) and John A Jameson (Manager).

The historical link between the MCC and Bangladesh was established over four decades ago, when an MCC 'A' team first visited Dhaka and Chittagong in 1955-56.

After Bangladesh gained independence, the MCC was the first foreign cricket team to tour here in 1976-77. A second MCC visit in 1978-79 helped Bangladesh win ICC membership. The MCC last visited Bangladesh in 1980-81.

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Bankers ease past Eskaton

Sports Reporter

BRIEF SCORES

ESKATON 88: 233 in 49.2 overs (Parvez 71, Majid Hanif 57, Sayeed Ali 31, Zakir 4/42) AGRANI BANK: 234/9 in 48.5 overs (Azam 67, Kamrul 53, Dipu 20 n.o., Sayeed Ali 3/46)

Agrani Bank Sports Club recorded their third victory in the ongoing Premier Division cricket league with a narrow one-wicket win over Eskaton Sabuj Sangha at the Dhanmondi cricket stadium yesterday.

Chasing 233 to win in the regulation 50 overs, the Bankers prevailed in 48.5 overs with only one wicket in hand.

Middle-order Azam Iqbal scored highest 67 off 108 balls inclusive of four boundaries while Kamrul Huda added 53 off 74 deliveries to the Bank account.

Among others veteran Dipu Roy Chowdhury fired an unbeaten 20 off only 15 balls. He added 25 runs along with Sharful Haque Plabon in the 10th wicket stand.

Eskaton's new-ball bowler Sayeed Ali grabbed three wickets conceding 46 runs in 10 overs while Taleb and Imran took two wickets apiece.

Earlier put into bat, Eskaton collected 233 in 49.2 overs.

Opener Parvez scored 71 runs facing 109 ball while Majid Hanif of Pakistan, younger brother of Brothers Union's Aamir Hanif, scored 57 runs for Eskaton.

Bank's Zakir dismissed four Eskaton batsmen conceding 42 runs in 10 overs.

With yesterday's win, Bankers earned six points from ten matches while it was the tenth successive defeat for Eskaton in as many matches. Both teams have already confirmed their participation in the relegation league which will be held among the six dummer teams of the 12-team Elite group.

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Motiur Rahman Mohammedan VP

Sports Reporter

Motiur Rahman, editor Banglabazar Patrika, has been named a vice-president of Mohammedan Sporting Club, according to a reliable source.

A renowned journalist, Motiur Rahman is a very keen sports enthusiast.

Calcutta Chronicle

WC live telecast dead?

Tapan Majumder from Calcutta



Come 14 February. The Kiwis will confront England in the first match of the World Cup to be played at Ahmedabad, India. But Indians may not be able to watch it on their tellyes; thanks to Doordarshan's tangle with World Tel over the telecast rights in India, keeping millions of viewers all over India on tenterhooks.

Before the month-long battle between the bat and the ball, a war of words in court between Doordarshan (DD) and World Tel is hitting the headlines almost everyday. Long ago PILCOM, the organisers sold the exclusive rights to World Tel to show the matches live for \$10 million. DD, the government-owned organisation signed a MOU with World Tel on May 14, 1994 for exclusive coverage of the first two instalments on time, but failed to pay the first one by October 31, 1995. On November 1, World Tel promptly terminated its agreement with DD and signed an agreement with STAR TV. Such repudiation of MOU and moreover selling of rights to its bitter competitor, Star TV, made DD furious and they went to the Delhi High Court. The legal battle is still going on.

A verbal slugfest between DD and World Tel has dominated the in-court and off-court war. In the legal wrangle between the two, accusations are being hurled with great vigour. But such acrimony is only obfuscating the whole tournament.

Not only the viewers, the sponsors of this mega event are also spending sleepless nights. ITC, the main sponsor has spent more than Rs 35 crore to bag the title sponsorship. Coca Cola and Visa also have big budgets for this tourney. All three companies had earlier planned to market their product extensively through advertisements on DD. But, as things stand now, such plans are likely to go haywire.

This World Cup is surely the greatest money-spinner of all time. Never before has so much money been invested in cricket, the most glamorous and publicised sport in the subcontinent with an estimated 1.5 billion viewers. What is intriguing is the intransigent attitude of DD. World Tel estimates that the television revenues will cross the \$20 million mark — more than four times the gross amount in the last World Cup. It is telecasting which is the main source of income today and not gate money. No official in DD is pragmatic enough to envisage that it's better for them to bury the hatchet with World Tel and PILCOM as early as possible and earn the huge ad revenue amounting to more than Rs 80 crore.

It is no secret that all this tug of war is the result of long standing animosity between the Board of Cricket Control of India (BCCI) and

DD, to be precise, and Jagmohan Dalmiya, the secretary of BCCI and Ratikanta Basu, Director General of DD. Recently R Basu was transferred from the post of DG, an indication that the government does not fully endorse DD's stand in the tiff with World Tel.

What is feared by the cricket lovers in India is that even if DD loses the legal tussle, it may deny uplinking facilities to Grandlam, who have been contracted by World Tel, to produce the telecast. (Television images — signals) — are distributed by satellites which have to be accessed, or uplinked, from earth stations. Only DD has direct uplinking facilities in India. In 1993, Indian viewers could not see the first two matches of the Hero Cup after DD refused to give TWI uplinking facility.

But there is a hope. In the year of election, political realities may force a compromise. The Central Government know the hawla hulla-balloo is more easily tackled than the pyrotechnics that could erupt if cricket was given a go by. So viewers all over India are still groping for an answer to the question, 'Will I get to see the World Cup live on television?' As things stand today, the answer is 'No'. But today's 'No' could be tomorrow's 'Yes'.

You cannot predict today who will be the loser in the final at Lahore on March 17. But one thing is sure that if the telecast imbroglio is not sorted out, it will make everyone a loser in India.

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WC leg in SL at stake



NEW DELHI, Feb 1: A World Cup official on Thursday hinted at the possibility of cancelling matches in Sri Lanka because of Wednesday's bomb attack in Colombo, but said an early decision was unlikely, report agencies.

"It's a major problem," organising committee member Amrit Mathur said, reacting to the bomb blast in Central Colombo.

"This is an unprecedented situation and least expected. It obviously cannot be taken lightly," he said adding that the organisers were in constant touch with cricket officials in Sri Lanka to determine the future course of action.

"If need be, we may have to shift the venues of the four matches allotted to Sri Lanka, but that will only be a last option, and only if Sri Lanka themselves refuse to hold the matches," Mathur said.

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka is going ahead with preparations to host the World Cup

cricket tournament in two weeks time, despite concerns over security.

"No country has contacted us over this bombing incident. We are going ahead

Tennis coaches' camp ends

Sports Reporter

An eleven-day training course for the tennis coaches, organised by the Bangladesh Tennis Federation (BTF) in cooperation with the International Tennis Federation (ITF) concluded at the National Tennis Complex yesterday.

A total of twenty coaches from different parts of the country took part in the course which was conducted by ITF development officer for Central Asia Leonardo Snelleman of Sweden.

Ten out of twenty qualified in the course. They are: Shamim Ahsan Rony, Sham-suddha Siddique, Moshur Rahman, Sukumar Roy, Moniruzzaman, Pran Krishna Ghosh, Fazle Rabbi, Dipak Roy, Monir Chowdhury and Hira Lal.

BTF vice president Professor Rashiduddin Ahmed distributed the certificates as chief guest.

with preparations for the matches," said Tissa Gunaratne, a spokesman for the Sri Lankan cricket board. "We have not even considered calling off the matches."

The board's organising committee is still confident that security at the four matches to be held in Sri Lanka would be sufficient, said Gunaratne.

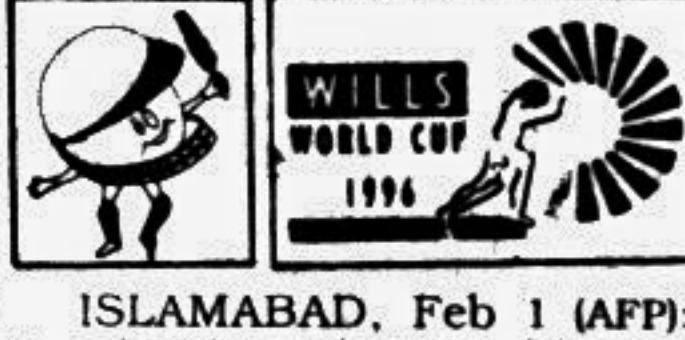
The government has made elaborate security during the World Cup, but the attack came as a reminder that the rebels can mount such a devastating attack in the capital city.

Given the situation, the organising committee of the 12-nation World Cup is reviewing the security situation, said a cricket official in Calcutta, India, where the organising committee is headquartered.

Sri Lanka, co-hosts of the World Cup with India and Pakistan from February 11 to March 17, are scheduled to play three of their four matches in Colombo against Australia on February 17, Zimbabwe (Feb 21) and West Indies (Feb 25).

The fourth match against Kenya on March 6 was allocated to the popular hill resort of Kandy in central Sri Lanka.

Carnival's chilly flurry



ISLAMABAD, Feb 1 (AFP): The 1996 cricket World Cup will be remembered as the most controversial showpiece in the sport's history, even before a single ball has been bowled.

The tournament, staged by Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka, opens in Calcutta on February 11 before a backdrop of cheating allegations, player death threats, a television row, sectarian taunts, a mass tragedy and last but not least a corruption scandal.

If the cricket can live up to the front-page headlines, fans are in for a very high-charged few weeks.

The stories of cheating date back to 1994, in an episode that has badly tarnished the sport's reputation for gentlemanly fair-play.

Australian players Shane Warne, probably the best-known bowler in the world, Tim May and Mark Waugh claimed they were offered money by Pakistani captain Salim Malik to throw a game.

The scandal threatened to rival the scale of the 1930s bodyline furore as the International Cricket Council, the sport's governing body, ruled it did not have the power to investigate, the Australians refused to go to Pakistan for an inquiry and Malik was exonerated.

Pakistani Judge Fakhrudin Ebrahim, betraying the diplomatic skills of Genghis Khan on a bad day, threw further oil onto the raging flames by suggesting the allegations had been concocted.

The gross failure to sort out the affair will leave bitterness and resentment bubbling away throughout the World Cup next month and

leave the Australian squad, favourites for the title, fearing for their safety.

The threats to the team with fast bowler Craig McDermott reportedly promised a "diet of handgrenades" and Warne receiving a batch of hate mail from the sub-continent raised emotions still further as speculation mounted some players might refuse to take part in the Cup.

Australian Cricket Board chief executive Graham Halbish said: "In my experience this is the most threatening situation we have encountered because it has become personal... I still believe there is genuine cause for concern."

"You can't ignore the fact that some players have been threatened and in a very aggressive manner."

"Things have not been handled much better off the pitch either."

With a few days to go to the event, a row over television rights in India between the government and the organisers was still unresolved, raising the prospect that the country's 17 matches would have to be switched to Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

That impasse was not helped by suggestions Indian federal minister Madhavrao Scindia, the head of India-Pakistan-Sri Lanka World Cup organising committee, could be facing corruption charges.

Add the tragic deaths of 12 cricket spectators in November last year after a wall collapsed at the Nagpur venue and warnings by Hindu militant leader Bal Thackeray that Pakistani players would not be allowed in India and you have a fairly dramatic stage for a sporting extravaganza.

The cricket itself, of course, is not the real thing, or so the purists would argue.

The one-day game, with its coloured pajamas instead of traditional whites, is the 'pop' version of the game, its 50 overs a short sprint compared to the genuine article, the five-day Test match.

Pop, however, stands for popular, and the one-day game has built up a massive following, particularly in Asia.

Of the 12 countries taking part, Australia who have also had a blazing row with Sri Lanka after an umpire tried to outlaw one of their top bowlers and South Africa are the front-runners.

The three host nations, particularly Pakistan, the 1992 winners, will rate their chances, even though a home side has never won a World Cup.

England, a competent if uninspired side, and the West Indies, down on their luck, should also not be discounted.

A Pakistan versus Australia final — featuring Malik on the one hand and Warne on the other is a real, if perturbing, possibility.

The charm of the event will be delivered by the minnows of Zimbabwe, a Test nation since 1992, Holland, the United Arab Emirates and Kenya.

Anyone tempted to patronise them, however, could be in for an unexpected bouncer.

Their sides may be sprinkled with schoolboys and slipped old age pensioners — like Holland's 47-year-old former Barbadian Nolan Clarke — and they may be more used to playing on matting rather than grass.

History — and five previous World Cups — suggest, however, that one-day cricket can turn into an unexpected lottery, with the big ticket holders not always guaranteed of success.

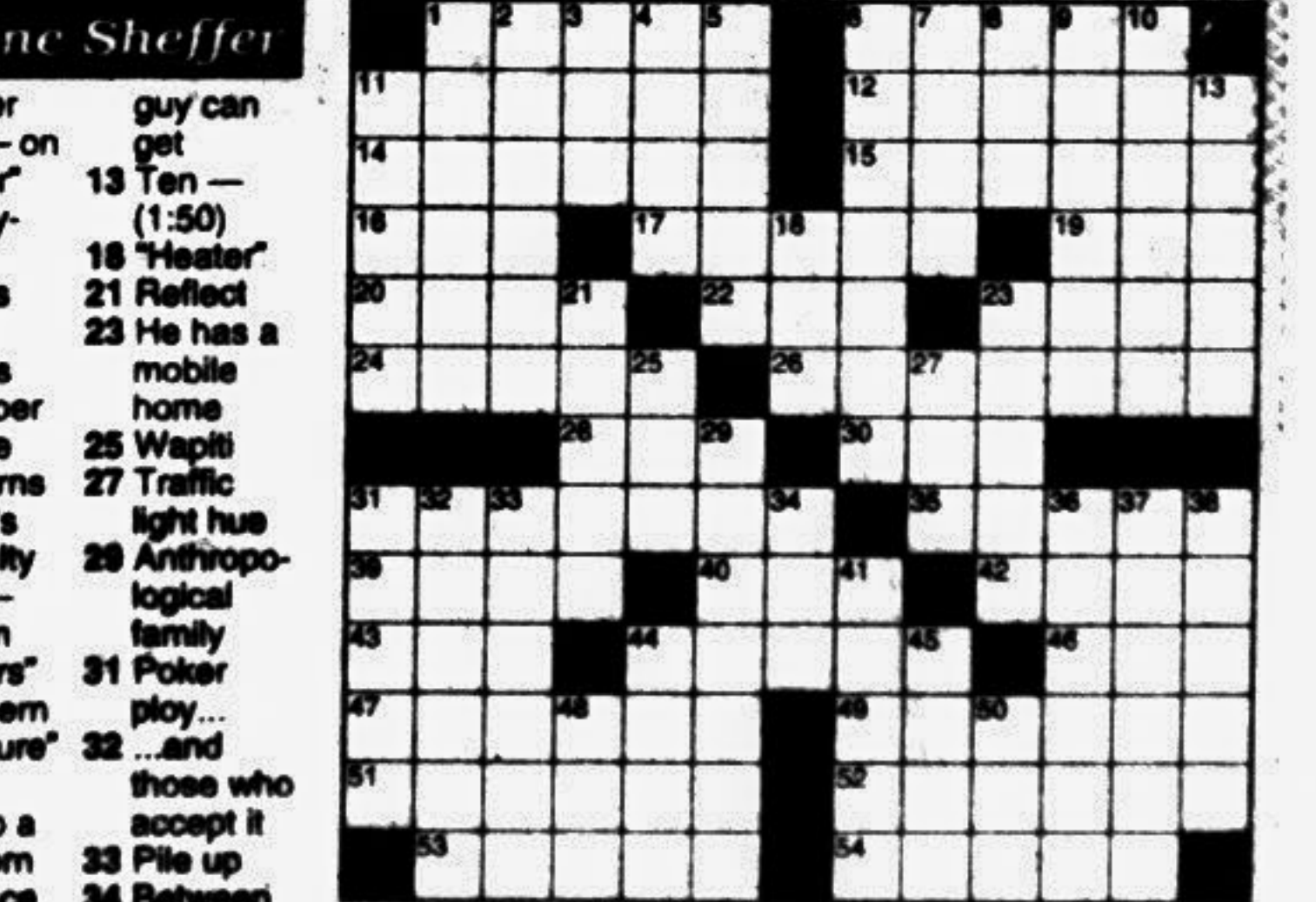
Tribute to Reg Woolton, the cartoonist Sporting Sam



With special thanks to the SUNDAY EXPRESS

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS 1 Auctioneer's final bid? 6 Echolocation method 11 Ankle-high under work shoe 12 Brunch entree 14 Agreement 18 Soup favorite 19 That girl 17 How sweet it is 19 Perch 20 Faxed 22 Have breakfast 23 Distort 24 The Lady Tiger? 26 Trailer park woe 28 Suffering 30 Actor Stephen 31 All-encompassing 36 He may be six feet under 39 Canal zone 40 "Bow wow" 42 Jeans-maker



CRYPTOQUIP

DE PKXI YQ: WEET

KXXYGUQ-WTEUI RIJ-

IQKTYKD KTI PETIRJT

FJYUJ FIKU

Yesterday's Cryptogram: WHAT WAS THE IRRITATING, AGED TAILOR? AN OLD SEW-AND-SEW.

Today's Cryptogram clue: T equals R

The Cryptogram 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.