

Column One

SPORTS TALK



Mushtaq Ahmed
(Pakistani leg spinner)
There is no greater joy than
bemoaning a batsman. And the
joy can be greater if you get his
wicket.

SPORTS
WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

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Sports WHIZZ KID
competition-52

✓ Tick the Correct Answers

(Competition closes : 8 pm
September 13, 1996)

1. Pakistani batsman Salim Malik's century in the Oval Test was his
11th 10th 14th
2. How many athletes from Bangladesh went to Atlanta this year
Two Three Four
3. The top seed of this year's US Open is
Agassi Agassi Muster
4. Pakistani pacer Waqar Younis has signed for English county
Gloucestershire Surrey Kent
5. Cricket umpire Steve Bucknor is from
Kenya Zimbabwe West Indies

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

Cagliari awaits BD
hockey squad
Sports Reporter

A 19-member national hockey team including three officials was named by Bangladesh Hockey Federation yesterday which will participate in the forthcoming 9th Men's World Cup preliminaries, scheduled to begin in Cagliari, Italy from September 29.

Midfielder Mahboob Harun and striker Mohammad Sadeq have been named as the captain and vice-captain respectively of the 16-player squad while BHF secretary Shamsul Bari will act as the manager of the team.

Fourteen nations including hosts Italy are participating in the two-week long tourney divided into two groups for the first round. The top two teams in each group and the winners of the play off for the fifth and sixth place will qualify for the final round of the next World Cup.

Bangladesh have been placed in group B alongside Ireland, Kenya, Poland, Scotland, USA and hosts Italy while Group A features Canada, China, Egypt, Kazakhstan, New Zealand, Switzerland and Wales. Bangladesh will take on Italy in their opening match on September 29.

The following are the members of the Bangladesh team: Mahboob Harun (captain), Mohammad Sadeq (vice-captain), Osman Gani, Rabiuddin Ahmed, Mamunur Rashid, Mahfuz Alam, Isma Miah, Khurshid Alam, Ishfaqul Alam, Haider Alam, Musa Miah, Elham Hossain, Alamgir Alam, Rafiqul Islam, Kamal, Zahurul Islam, Mitul, Rahmat Ali Asir, Shamsul Bari (manager), Pratap Shankar Hazra (coach) and Mirza Farid Alam (umpire).

Prior to their Italy trip, Bangladesh will play a few practice matches in Lahore, Pakistan from September 16 to 26.

Nat'l pair
duplicate
bridge

Animal Hasan Topu and Sayeed Ahmed Tobi clinched the Khandaker Fazle Sobhan national pair duplicate bridge championship trophy at Sheraton Hotel on Friday, a Bangladesh Bridge Federation press release said yesterday, reports BSS.

In all, 50 pairs contested in a two-section qualifying round over 26 pairs moved to the semi-finals of the two-day championship sponsored by Transcom Electronic Ltd.

Tutul's two Abahani's woe

Sports Reporter



Defending champions Abahani Krira Chakra with a 2-0 lead till the 79th minute thought victory was a foregone conclusion, but Mosharraf Hossain Tutul had other ideas and the lanky Agrani Bank striker served two quick blows to pull off a sensational 2-2 draw in a Danish Premier football league match at the floodlit Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Tutul, who played for Abahani a couple of years back, struck in the 79th minute with a fierce left-footer and then rose on to nod the ball home two minutes from the final whistle to record an unprecedented turnaround by any mediocre team against one of the local giants.

And when Tutul, capitalising on a defense lapse of a shaky Abahani, guided a long throw from substitute Johnny into the far corner of the net the bankers burst into ecstasy, leaving most of the strong 20,000 crowd at the big bowl as grim as in a funeral march.

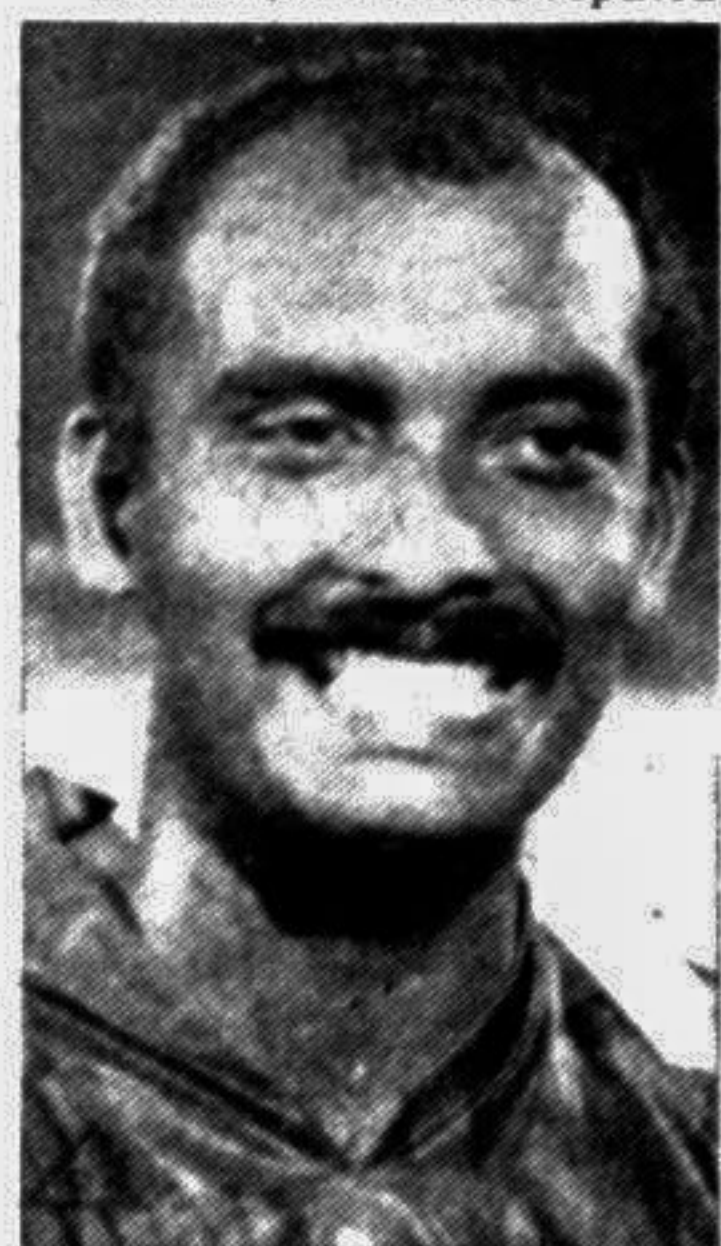
It was Abahani's second successive draw after their disappointing goalless outing against Farashganj SC. The holders, who are on a hot trail to strike a hat-trick of titles this year, seem to be wandering at the nascent stage of the league, leaving their arch-rivals Mohammedans Sporting three points clear at the top on completion of their five league engagements. Abahani now share the second position with Muktijoddha, both having collected 11 points.

In the days match, Abahani, who have been limping so far in the absence of an aplomb mid-fielder, managed to enjoy a lone-goal lead at the breather with Liton blasting a 20-yarder in the 32nd minute. Rakib doubled the margin in the 56th minute shooting from close.

Despite being fortuous of finding the opponents net twice, Abahani seldom played like

champions. In the absence of the quality midfielder, the Dhanmondi outfit offered a pedestrian display throughout the match. The sky blues not only lacked cohesiveness but more often than not played like an ordinary outfit except for a few flashes of personal brilliance from their newly recruited winger Rakib Hossain.

The officials of this reputed



TUTUL

club of the country seem not to realise the import of their lacklustre performance. With Gaffar surprisingly remaining the chief coach of Abahani, the officials are yet to make any headway to unearth the folly of the champions, who are so far not only painfully out of depth, but seem also to be oblivious of their lofty reputation.

Rakib, switching to Abahani from Muktijoddha along with four others, once again played the pivotal role in every attack. The nimble winger opened the otherwise rock-solid Bank defence in the second minute with a crisp cross from the left. But striker Mizan, who is going

through a lean patch, drove the ball miles over the cross-piece much to the horror of his teammates and supporters.

In the 20th minute Rakib tested the Bank custodian Milton with a grounder which the latter parried by diving to his left.

The workmanlike Rakib then floated another cross from the left which Bank defender Raj headed away only to an unmarked Liton, who from the top of the box fired a sudden thunderous shot into the right-hand corner of the net (1-0).

Fifteen minutes into the second half Abahani got their second goal when Rakib shot the ball home from close through the near post (2-0).

But after enjoying the lead Abahani, who apparently ignored Agrani Bank's gritty display earlier against Mohammedans which they lost 3-2 in a see-saw encounter, resigned to complacency taking victory as granted.

And that was enough for the bankers to have a go against their more illustrious opponents with a spectacular late rally.

In the 79th minute Tutul, finding a Nayan cross deep inside the Abahani box, made no mistake to punch it past a diving Dhano into the far corner of the net (1-2).

Tutul then celebrated his third and perhaps the most precious goal in the league two minutes from the final whistle as Agrani Bank went away with a crucial point. It was Agrani's first draw after a win and three successive defeats to raise their tally to four from five matches.

Yellow card: Kabir (Agrani Bank).

ABAHANI KC: Dhani, Chanchal (Shamim), Ali Mansur, Sohail Reza, Hasan Al Mamun, Liton, Partha, Rakib, Rumi (Milon), Mizan and Jahangir.

AGRANI BANK: Milton, Raj, Kala (Kabir), Panash, Rafiq, Sentu, Munna (Jony), Rana, Nayan, Tutul and Jahangir. Referee: Ehsanul Haq

Graf in final

Sports Reporter

Steffi Graf has confirmed a much-expected Grand Slam reunion on Tuesday when she beat 15-year-old Swiss sensation Martina Hingis in the semifinals of the US Open.

The trouble-torn top-seeded Graf, who has more on her mind than tennis these days, used her years of experiences at the right moment to help herself into gear and then went on to stop the dream run of the talented teenager with a comfortable 7-5, 6-3 victory.

Hingis, who turns sixteen next month, surprised third seed Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario of Spain in the fourth round before ousting seventh seeded veteran Czech Jana Novotna in the quarters to become the youngest player to reach the semifinals after American Jennifer Capriati.

While Steffi will be pursuing for her 21st Grand Slam title here, her father Peter has gone on trial in Germany Thursday on charges of tax evasion.

However, the clash of the number ones, Steffi Graf and her long-time rival Monica Seles commences Sunday.

Danish leagues
suspended

All the matches of the Danish Metropolis Premier and First Division football leagues will remain suspended for 11 days from today, the league committee said, reports UNB.

The suspension of the league matches from September 8-18 has been made complying with the request of Mohammedan SC which will leave Dhaka today or the day after to play the return match of the Asian Cup Winners Cup tie in Laos.

The League fixtures will be bodily shifted and the matches will resume on September 19.

Rahmatganj Badda
share points
Sports Reporter

Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society and Badda Jagarani Sangad shared points in the Danish First Division football league after their match against each other ended in a 1-1 draw at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday afternoon.

Striker Selim put Badda ahead in the 19th minute while Abul Hasan headed home the equaliser for Rahmatganj in the 25th minute. This was the fifth league match for both the teams from which Rahmatganj have earned 11 points while Badda collected six points.

Leicester lead
the pack

LONDON, Sept 7: Leicestershire edged ahead in the compelling race for the English county championship when they survived some anxious moments to beat Nottinghamshire by six wickets on Friday, reports Reuter.

Captain James Whitaker calmed Leicestershire nerves with an unbeaten 30 to steer his side to the victory target of 82 after their first three wickets tumbled for 40.

Leicestershire's win on the fourth and final day at Trent Bridge gave them a one-point lead in the most open championship for many years.

The top five teams — Leicestershire, Surrey, Derbyshire, Essex and Kent — all have realistic title ambitions and are separated by only 15 points with two matches left.

Leicestershire, seeking only the second championship in their 117-year history, swiftly polished off Nottinghamshire's second innings in the morning, pace bowler David Millns taking the remaining two wickets.

Millns finished with five for 31 as Notts were dismissed for 196, but the home team hit back through a three-wicket burst with the new ball by Mark Bown before Whitaker came in to seal success at 82 for four.

Surrey moved into second place after completing an emphatic 225-run victory over Northamptonshire at The Oval.

Fizzy Rafique fizzles Fiji

Sports Reporter



A magnificent all-round performance by Mohammad Rafique steered Bangladesh to their second successive victory in the ACC trophy cricket tournament when they beat Fiji by six wickets in a first round group A match at the Kuala Lumpur ground in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

According to a faxed message received here last evening, Fiji won the toss and decided to bat. But due to some fine off spinners from left-arm bowler Rafique and Sheikh Saleuddin, the islanders were booked for only 156 runs in 48.3 overs.

Rafique, the dark and tall off-spinner, gave the first breakthrough when he returned both Fiji openers — W Uvuti (8) and J Bulabalavu (25) — with the score on 42. Rafique then took the most vital wicket of the match sending back Fiji's highest scorer T Batina who scored 39 runs. With Batina's wicket, Rafique claimed three for 41 runs in his ten-over spell.

Rafique was equally supported by Saleuddin who also bagged three wickets giving away only 20 runs in 10 overs.

Among others, medium pacer Saiful Islam captured two wickets while vice-captain Aminul Islam Bulbul picked up one. Chasing a paltry target, Bangladesh reached home (157) in the 39th over losing only four wickets.

After showing his class with the ball, Rafique also sparked

with the willow as he scored highest 41 off 44 deliveries which included three huge sixers.

Middle order Aminul Islam Bulbul fired highest 44 not out while skipper Akram Khan was unbeaten on 15. Among others, opener Harunur Rashid and one-down Habibul Bashar Sumon scored 18 and 22 runs.

Fall of wickets: 1-42; 2-42; 3-67; 4-79; 5-141; 6-150; 7-152; 8-155; 9-155; 10-156.

Bowling: O M R W
Saiful 8.3 0 27 0
Anis 6 2 13 0
Saiful 8.3 3 16 2
Rafique 10 1 41 3
Saleuddin 10 4 20 3
Bulbul 10 1 26 1

BANGLADESH

S H Bhatia c Batina b Tawatawa 0
H R Liton lbw Batina 18
H B Sumon c S Sorvakatine b Sezuvo 22
M Rafique b L Sorvakatine 44
Al Bulbul not out 15
Akram Khan not out 41
Extras: (b-2, lb-4, nb-1, w-10) 17
Total: (for four wickets in 39 overs) 157

Did not bat: K M Pilot, Sajal Chowdhury, Anisur Rahman, Saiful Islam and Sheikh Saleuddin.

Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-47, 3-47, 4-112.

Bowling: O M R W
A Tawatawa 6 0 29 1
J Malyetwa 9 0 48 0
J Sezuvo 4 1 22 1
J Batina 10 2 26 1
L Sorvakatine 7 0 25 1

SCOREBOARD

FLI W Uvuti at Pilot b Rafique 8
J Bulabalavu c Pilot b Rafique 25
J Malyetwa lbw Saleuddin 19
S Sorvakatine c Pilot b Saiful 28

Result: Bangladesh won by six wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Mohammad Rafique

Harping on same string



LONDON, Sept 7 (Reuter): This should be the prime of Allan Lamb's life. The bluntness of his autobiography published in his testimonial year after 18 years of valuable service for English county Northamptonshire.

Champagne greeted the guests and former England captain Bob Willis was happy to oblige as master of ceremonies. Seated on a stool, surveying the scene, most sportsmen would have offered up a small prayer of gratitude and reflected that perhaps the lean times were over.

Sitting facing this audience, though, was a Lamb shorn of his normal ebullience. Even those who have never pulled up a bar stool at home or abroad with one of England's more social-minded players could tell the difference. A doctor would probably diagnose a severe case of battered pride.

Since losing his libel action with Ian Botham against former Pakistan captain Imran Khan, Lamb continues to talk about an appeal. But the words are delivered by a man who no longer possesses the same absolute certainty about batting and life.

He still can't quite believe the events of July 31, 1995, the date the high court verdict was delivered, or indeed the entire 17 days the case spanned.

"I wasn't worried, even when the judge announced he would accept a majority verdict of either 10-2 or 11-1, because I thought the voting was the other way," recalled Lamb.

"I know how the case should have gone. I think 80 per cent of the British public know which way it should have gone."

It also left Lamb with "A fairly big hole in my pocket" at the end of a season he had hoped would provide on last tour of the county circuit with Northants, the club who offered a young hopeful from South Africa his first contract in 1978.

Instead, his determination to tell his side of the story about the 1992 ball tampering affair at the root of the Imran courtroom battle led to his enforced retirement in April after the English cricket authorities made it clear they would block

any controversial passages. The abrupt curtailment of a career which coincided with some of the best times in modern English cricket still saddens him.

"I would have liked to have played for one more year" as well as the knowledge his successors are playing a different game.

"They are told the right things to eat, the right stuff to drink. Now, when you come off the field, you've got to have the right mineral water in the stomach after taking five wickets or scoring a hundred. We thought we played better on champagne."

"I feel I stood up for the players and the game," he insists. "I'm afraid I didn't get the support of my own board. Too many people stayed on the fence."

There are media commitments and other, unspecified, projects in the pipeline but after 79 Tests and more than 30,000 first-class runs, Lamb admits he would prefer his six-year-old son Richard not to become a cricketer.

"There's not enough money in it. If he wants to become a professional golfer, that's fine. I wouldn't mind caddy for him for the rest of my life."

Tiger Cup soccer
Thais trounce
Brunei

SINGAPORE, Sept 7: Thailand thumped Brunei 6-0 in Friday's Tiger Cup group match but lost star playmaker Surachai Jaturapatarapong, possibly for the rest of the tournament, after the classy player left clutching his right ankle early in the match.

"We should know tomorrow about the ankle," said Thai coach Thavatchai Sajakul. "But we have to expect that he may be out of the rest of the cup."

In the other Tiger Cup match hosts Singapore still looked out of sorts but managed a 3-0 defeat of unfancied Philippines to put them temporarily on top of Group B with seven points from three games.

Surachai's loss was not immediately apparent on the field with his replacement Worawot Srimaka scoring a brace of goals in the 35th and 67th minutes.

Thailand opened briskly with Phutha Santawong scoring 15 minutes into the game with sharpshooter Natopong Sri-Tongin adding goals in the 23th and 87th minutes.

Not to be outdone by his goal-scoring rival, Kitasak Senamuang also scored in the 77th minute underlining Thailand's vivid attacking Philippines defense.

Singapore needed goals from evergreen Fandi Ahmad in the 20th and 42nd minutes to undo a tough-tackling Philippines defense.

Recalled defender Lim Tong Hai netted Singapore's final goal with a header in the 73rd minute.

Coach Barry Whitbread's assessment of Singapore's chances were upbeat.

"I look at it that we are top of the group and a draw against Thailand should see us through," said Whitbread at the post-match press conference.

Today's Cryptquip clue: T equals C

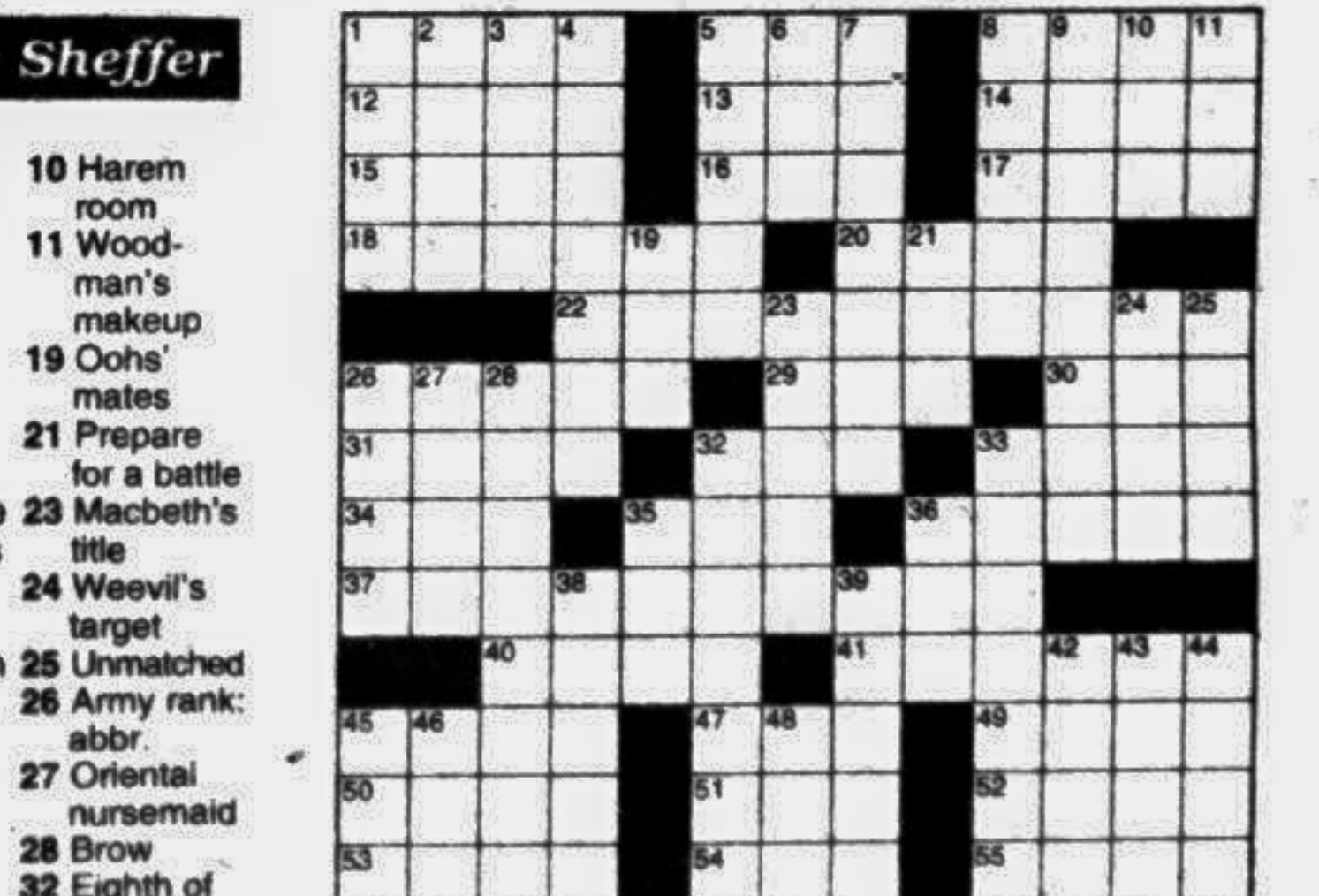
The Cryptquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

BAF basketball

The inter-base basketball championship of the Bangladesh Air Force began at BAF Base Matur Rahman, Jessore, yesterday, reports UNB.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Speaker's platform
 - 5 Acknowledge the applause
 - 6 Caledonian
 - 12 Gen. Wingate of WWII
 - 13 Tall tale
 - 14 California city
 - 15 Night light?
 - 16 In the style of
 - 17 Somali
 - 18 Obese salute
 - 20 Pack down
 - 22 Classical music
 - 26 Sidewalk eateries
 - 29 Seamstress' concern
 - 30 Ovary
 - 31 Book before Obadiah
 - 32 Distant
 - 33 Small valley
 - 34 Links
- statistic** 35 "Yes, Virginia..."
- newspaper** 36 Bridal path
- Early on** 37
- Victory** 38
- Occupant** 39
- Legislative** 40
- Assemblies** 41
- Point the finger at** 42
- Art medium** 43
- Willard** 44
- Prediction** 45
- "Ghost-busters"** 46
- Creed word** 47
- Contempt** 48
- Isolation** 49
- MAJOR CABS** 50
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CRYPTOQUIP

SCN, RSUE, WNW RSU
IDEK, TCCY, LUFMDL
ZK, TLDYUW, FMIOD?
NMRS, RCZDRC, FIDRU.

Yesterday's Cryptquip: THAT GRUMPY TREE
SURGEON SAYS HE'S TOO SPENT TO STIR HIS
STUMPS.

Today's Cryptquip clue: T equals C

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.



Action from the Danish Premier Division match between Abahani and Agrani Bank at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. — Star photo