

Shooters return

Sports Reporter

Ace shooter Sabrina Sultana, who clinched Bangladesh's lone gold in the second Commonwealth championships in Kuala Lumpur on November 26, returned home along with her five teammates last night.

Sabrina was accorded a warm welcome at the Zia International Airport by State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader. A good number of local sports organisers including Bangladesh Shooting Federation president Abdus Salam, MP, were present.

The six-member team took part in the meet which concluded on November 29. Sabrina won the individual small bore sport rifle prone event.

NZ schoolboy's hefty hitting

WELLINGTON, Dec 1: The New Zealand cricket team, which is taking drubbing after drubbing on its tour to Australia, might take lessons from an Auckland schoolboy who lashed 400 not out in a four-hour innings at the weekend, reports Reuters.

Chris Knight, playing an under-19 match for Cornwall, smashed 26 sixes and 42 fours for 324 runs in boundaries alone.

"I guess it was pretty amazing — I've never played in a team who have scored 400," Knight was quoted as saying in the New Zealand Herald published on Monday.

Cornwall ended their innings at 619 for two on the first day of the two-day match.

The world record for a schoolboy is 628 not out, scored by Englishman A E J Collins in 1899. It took him five afternoons.

The Kiwi cricket team may be out of luck if it wants Knight's services — the seventh from Auckland Grammar School student plans to get a summer job rather than play cricket.

And his real sporting love is hockey — he was in New Zealand's under-18 team this year.

Inter back on song

ROME, Dec 1: Argentine midfielder Diego Simeone struck two goals six minutes apart and Brazil's Ronaldo added a third Sunday as Internazionale rebounded from a midweek UEFA Cup loss to beat host Juventus 3-1 and increase their lead atop the Serie A, reports AP.

The victory improved Inter's record to 8-2-0 for 26 points, a season-high four more, than second-place Juventus. The defending champions drew 1-1 at AC Milan in the night match.

Simeone, who hadn't scored in the league until last weekend, scored the opener from close range in the 32nd, following a free kick. The Argentine doubled Inter's advantage in the 38th, with a rising, angled shot.

Massimo Ambrosini slotted in a rebound for his first career goal to bring Juventus within 2-1 in the 59th. But Inter's shaky defence, missing suspended starter Fabio Galante, made the lead stand up, and Ronaldo scored an insurance goal in the 68th. The Brazilian star, playing with a bruised knee, capitalized on his first real scoring chance to net his eighth of the season.

It was Inter's ninth win in 10 league games this season; their lone loss away from home was Tuesday's 2-0 defeat at French side Strasbourg in UEFA action.

Juventus' result kept their unbeaten streak alive at 17 games, dating to last season. But Juve failed to fully atone for a 2-0 defeat Wednesday at Feyenoord Rotterdam that hurt their chances of reaching the Champions' League quarter-finals.

As Roma and Udinese share third place on 19 points after away victories, Roma earned a 2-0 win over Parma, who stayed on 18 points and slid two places to fifth. Udinese rallied with two goals in the final 18 minutes to defeat Lazio of Rome 3-2.

Vicenza, Lazio and Sampdoria who came back from a 2-0 hole to salvage a 2-2 draw at Bologna — share sixth place with 15 points.

In other games: Napoli ended a club-record six-game losing skid by drawing 1-1 with Fiorentina; Piacenza moved out of last place with their first win of the season, 3-2 at Empoli; Bari edged Brescia 2-1, and Atalanta and Lecce drew 0-0.

Ostersund to revive its bid

STOCKHOLM, Dec 1: Ostersund will seek support from Swedish sports groups today for a revival of its aborted campaign to win the 2006 Winter Olympics, reports Reuters.

Ostersund is challenging a decision made last week by the Swedish Olympic Committee (SOC) board, which voted not to back the Swedish town in its fourth consecutive Olympic bid.

Ostersund has asked the SOC to reconsider the decision at its joint annual general meeting with Sweden's Olympic sports federations to be held today in Stockholm.

The decision could be reversed with the backing of a majority of the sports federations.

Ostersund argued that its bid should be supported with the Winter Games due to return to Europe in 2006 after stints in Nagano, Japan next year and Salt Lake City in 2002, Svaleryd said.

First first-class century for Bangladesh

Rokon seizes spotlight

Sports Reporter

Al-Shahriar Rokon became the first Bangladeshi to score a first-class hundred when the young

right-hander hammered a fluent 102 against Southern Conference in a four-day match of the Shell Conference tournament at Carisbrook in Dunedin yesterday.

The fantastic feat of the talented youngster finally gave the beleaguered Bangladesh cricket team a much needed boost to shrug off their nightmarish tour of New Zealand when the visitors piled up 286 for nine at stumps on the inaugural day.

Coming in to bat at number six shortly after the lunch break, Rokon found a wily

partner in wicketkeeper Khaled Masud Pilot to steady the rocking boat, putting on 100 runs for the sixth wicket after Bangladesh lost half of their wickets for 163 runs on the board.

With Rokon playing with matured approach, the day turned out to be a refreshing change for off-coloured Bangladeshis, who not only played out a whole day for the first time, but garnered their highest total in an innings in their third first-class match in New Zealand.

A last minute inclusion in the touring national team, Rokon, who, despite being tipped as one of the most promising youngsters of the country, had hardly lived up to

his ratings in the domestic cricket, appeared to have come of age finally, reaching the magical three-figure off 184 balls which included seven hits across the rope and a quartet of sixes.

He was eventually out in the last session of the day, but not before Bangladesh were comfortably placed at 263. Rokon's dismissal, however, inflicted a stunning collapse as Bangladesh lost their next three wickets at the same score with Khaled Masud, who played the perfect foil at the other end with a defiant 45 off 141 balls, and Mofizur Rahman Munna returning for a duck.

Hasibul Hossain Shanto made a breezy 18-ball 20 punctuated with a couple of fours and a six before becoming the ninth batsman out off the final delivery of the day, leaving slow left-arm spinner Saifullah Gern (3) to resume Bangladesh innings with rookie left-arm seamer Monzurul Islam today.

The day certainly belonged to the boys of Akram Khan when Bangladesh, after winning the toss in morning, recovered from a horrible start of 11 for two to some sort of solidity as the tourists went to lunch without further damage with one-down Sanvar Hossain and vice-captain Aminul Islam putting on 84 runs.

But both Sanvar, who scored 54 off 115 balls, and Aminul Islam (30) departed in quick succession, leaving Bangladesh at 97 for four. Skipper Akram Khan scored a sedate 19 before being caught at square leg off Waseman, the most successful Southern Conference bowler with four for 101.

SCOREBOARD

BANGLADESH: First innings				
Athar Ali c Croy b Sewell	5			
Javed Omar c and b Wisneski	5			
Sanvar c Croy b Wisneski	54			
Aminul c Cumming b Wisneski	30			
Akram Khan c Stead b Wiseman	19			
Al-Shahriar c Wisneski b	102			
Wiseman				
Khaled Masud c Murray b	45			
Mofizur c Stead b Richardson	40			
Hasibul b b Sewell	20			
Saifullah not out	3			
Extras: (b-1, lb-2)	3			
Total: (for nine wickets in 112 overs)	286			
Did not bat: Manjurul Islam.				
Fall of wickets: 1-7; 2-11; 3-95; 4-97; 5-163; 6-263; 7-263; 8-263; 9-286.				
Bowling: O M R W				
Sewell	22	5	60	2
Wisneski	22	7	55	2
Bond	24	2	55	0
Wiseman	32	4	101	4
Richardson	12	6	13	1



AL-SHARIAR ROKON

Mehmud baffle Brothers

Sports Reporter

BRIEF SCORES

BROTHERS UNION: 185 all out in 50 overs (A Hanif 78, S Sharma 34; S Hossain 26; Shahed Mehmud 3/35; Sumon 2/39; Rafique 2/38).
MOHAMMEDAN SC: 138 for two wickets in 26 overs (Shahed Mehmud 98 not out; Shuvro 1/10; Mustadir Litu 1/20).
Result: Mohammeds won by eight wickets.

A virtuoso all-round performance by Pakistani leg-spinner Shahed Mehmud propelled Mohammedan Sporting Club to a huge eight-wicket win over fellow title contenders Brothers Union in a crucial Janakantha Premier Division cricket league match at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Mehmud captured three wickets for only 35 runs in his 10 nippy overs to restrict Brothers Union to 185 in the stipulated 50 overs and then went on to score a blazing 98 as Mohammedans, set to score a revised target of 138 in the rain-interrupted match, stormed into their fifth consecutive win and a place atop the table alongside last year's runners-up Kalabagan Krira Chakra.

The fate of the eventful match wore an uncertain look when unfriendly drizzle intervened at a stage with Mohammedans cruising at 87 for one in 21 overs. But the battle of the biggies finally resumed after an hectic efforts of the groundsman, leaving Mohammedans to score another 51 runs in eight overs for an outright win.

But Mehmud made the daunting task of scoring more than six runs per over quite easy.

ter setting the field a fire with flurry of shots under fading lights.

Resuming on 58 with Selim Shahed, the Pakistani simply toyed with the Brothers bowlers, plundering 25 runs from two prodigal overs of Sanjeev Sharma and his compatriot Amir Hanif.

Brothers' ploy to make the most of an overcast condition backfired when Sanjeev, the former Indian international, conceded 11 runs in the 22nd over, which included a couple of lusty blows from a marauding Mahmud, who then went on to smash a huge sixer against

stirred up an uproar at the stand when he unnecessarily went for a big hit instead of giving Mahmud a chance to complete his ton at a stage when Mohammedans needed one run from the last 18 balls.

But Mehmud received a rousing ovation from the crowd when the Pakistani was returning to the dressing room after playing perhaps an innings of his life.

Earlier, sent into bat in the morning, the fighting Brothers total was revolved around two foreign recruits, Amir Hanif, playing his first match of the season, scored a fine 78 while Sanjeev Sharma, the other 30-plus contributor of the Gopibahar outfit, chipped in with 34.

But the star-studded local resources of the Brothers failed miserably to rise on the big occasion. Opener Wahidul returned for a duck offering a straight forward catch at cover off left-arm seamer Morshed Ali Khan Sumon.

The under-rated Mohammedan new-ball bowler struck again in his very first over when he uprooted the middle-stump of one-down Jahangir (0) with a gem of an inswinger, leaving Brothers tottering at 4 for two in two overs.

It was Brothers' first defeat after their four successive win. Meanwhile, the other match of the day at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium between Bangladesh Biman and Wari Club was abandoned due to rain and bad light. The match will start afresh at the Dhaka Stadium today.

But Mehmud missed what would have been his well-deserved maiden century in the Dhaka cricket when Mohammedan Rafique picked up the winning run with a single in the last ball of the 26th over. The ungloidy attitude of Rafiq

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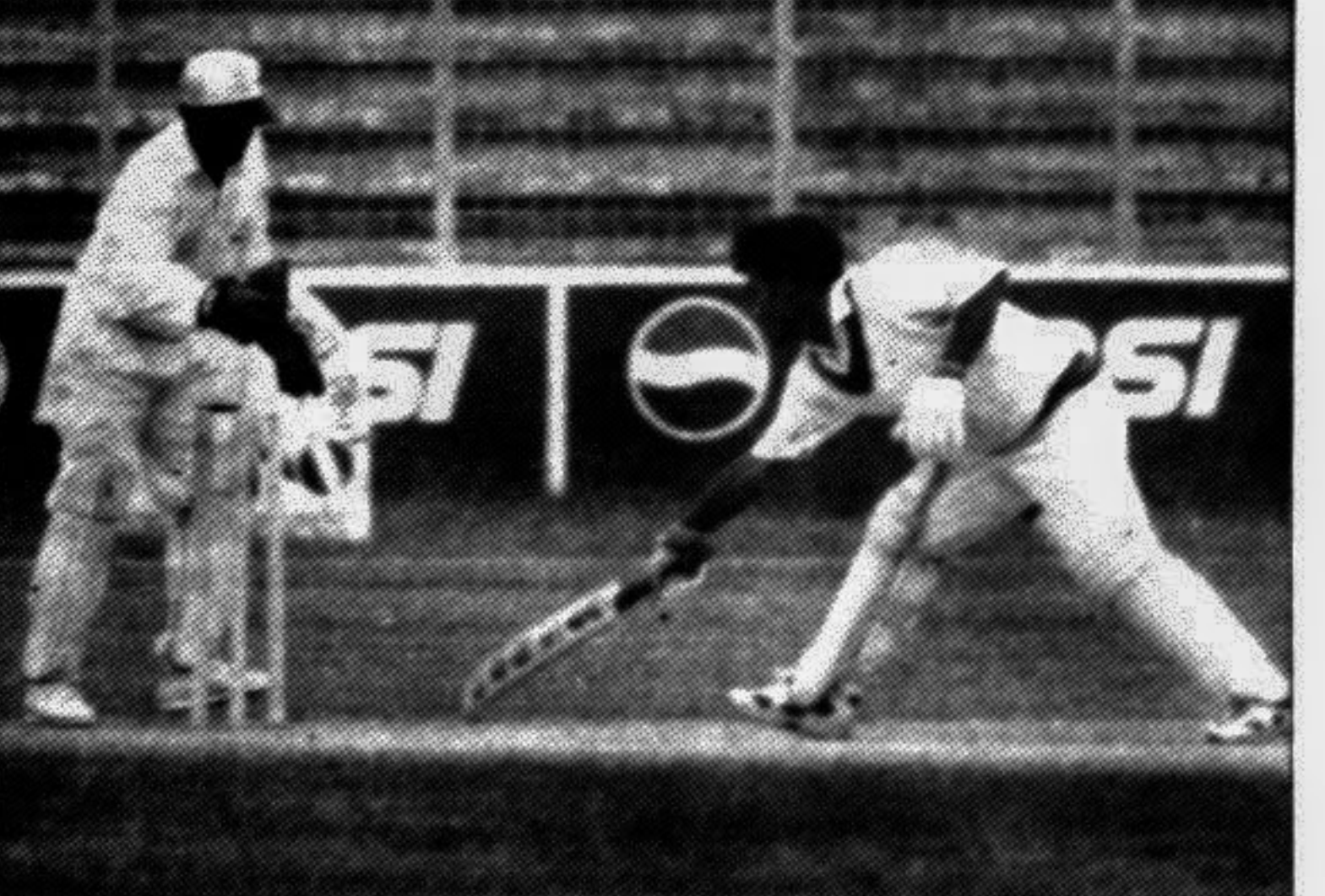
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Brothers Union lower middle order Mustadir Litu is stumped by Mohammedan wicketkeeper Nasu off Shahed Mehmud (not shown) during their yesterday's Janakantha Premier Division cricket league encounter at the Dhaka Stadium. — Star photo

Vincent cleared

LONDON, Dec 1: The key witness in the recent match-fixing trial involving former Liverpool star Bruce Grobbelaar was cleared on Wednesday of trying to derail the case by accepting 300,000 pounds (about 480,000 dollars) to leave Britain, reports AP.

Zimbabwean businessman Chris Vincent contacted one of the four defendants, former Wimbledon ace John Fashanu, months before the case and offered not to give evidence in exchange for the cash, a court heard.

Vincent was alleged to have added: "I'll go so far away that even Jesus Christ will have difficulty finding me."

The conversation was recorded by Fashanu's agent and Vincent was arrested and charged with attempting to pervert the course of justice.

But Vincent, 39, told police he had no intention of disappearing and claimed he was trying to set up Fashanu.



Mohammedan midfielder Askar Babu (C) scores the first of his two goals against Rahmatganj in their Premier League clash at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday. — Star photo

U-20 cricketers cruise along

Sports Reporter

BRIEF SCORES

MALAYSIA: 140 for nine in 50 overs (Rohan 32, Masrom 24, Extras 28, Sajal 3/34, Hasan 2/7, Sejan 1/6).
BANGLADESH: 144 for no loss in 14.4 overs (Sejan 75 n.o., Hannan 59 n.o.).
Result: Bangladesh won by ten wickets.

Favourites Bangladesh under 20 cricket team stormed into the second round of the World Youth Cup Asian qualifiers with another cakewalk victory over Malaysia in their second engagement at the Hong Kong Cricket Club ground yesterday.

Needing 141 in 50 overs, openers Sejan and Hannan Sarkar played the Malaysian bowlers putting on an unbeaten 144-run partnership in just 14.4 overs.

Sejan was more aggressive of the two hammering 75 off just 33 balls. His blitzkrieg contained three sixes and eleven boundaries. Hannan's 49-ball 59 consisted mainly of ten fours.

New-ball medium-paceman Sajal took three for 34 runs in his ten overs while Hasan's two wickets cost seven runs from ten overs.

Rohan Vishnu top-scored with 32 off 80 balls while Masrom chipped in with 24.

Earlier, electing to bat, the Bangladeshis failed to withstand the outstanding bowling by Sajal Chowdhury and left-arm spinner Ahsanullah Hasan and were dismissed for 140 in the stipulated overs.

The result ensured Bangladesh of winning Group A. Their next match is against unfancied Nepal on December 4.

The U-20 team began their quest with a thumping ten-wicket victory against Thailand on Sunday.

DU cricket

Sports Reporter

Department of Statistics defeated Botany by a huge 82 runs in a Dhaka University inter-department cricket championship match played at the Jagannath Hall ground yesterday.

Batting first, Statistics amassed 184 for eight in the stipulated 30 overs with Rafiqul Islam hammering highest 40 followed by Tutul who chipped in with 31.

Botany's Laizu captured three wickets for 39 runs while Rashed took two for 46.

In reply, Botany were bundled out for just 102 in 24.5 overs because of some tight bowling from Sadeq and Raju who evenly shared six wickets between them conceding 16 and 25 runs respectively.

Towfiq (22) and Rashed (21) were the notable Botany run-getters.

Biman squash on

State Minister for planning and Civil Aviation and Tourism Dr Muhiuddin Khan Alamgir inaugurated the third Biman open squash tournament at the Dhaka Club yesterday, reports BSS.

The clubs which are taking part in the seven-day competition are: British High Commission, Australian Club A and B, Canadian High Commission, Biman, BTC, Dhaka Club A and B, BCB Madhumita Club, BAF, Bagha Club and Gulshan Club.

Bangladesh Squash Rackets Federation has organised the tournament.

Bangladesh Squash Rackets Federation president Faroque Khan, MP, chairman, Jumuna Multipurpose Bridge (JMB) authority Abdul Mayeed Chowdhury and managing director of Bangladesh Biman, M Rafiqul Islam were also present.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Janakantha Premier Division Cricket League: Biman vs Wari (Dhaka Stadium).
Premier Division Football League: Abahani KC vs Victoria SC (Mirpur Stadium, 4 pm).

First Division Cricket League: Sadharan Bima KS vs Dhaka Wanderers Club (City Club).
Premier Division Football League: Abahani KC vs Victoria SC (Mirpur Stadium, 4 pm).

First Division Football League: Bangladesh Boys Club vs Shantinagar Club (Army Stadium, 2:30 pm).

Second Division Football League: Badda Jagarani vs Wari Club (Mirpur Stadium, 2 pm).

MSC off to winning start

Sports Reporter

Holder Mohammed Sporting Club made a good start with a 3-2 victory over promoter Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society as the return leg of the Premier Division football league kicked off at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

In a see-saw encounter which saw the Mohammedans leading the first session 2-1, midfielder Askar Babu struck twice after forward Don had opened the winners' account while Shafiqul and Asif reduced the margin for the losers.

In the day's second match, Mohammedans, who were pulled down to the third place by Abahani in the last first-leg engagement on Thursday, made a positive start against the organised Rahmatganj side who had their forefront reinforced with the introduction of Nigerian Nike Lulu.

The black and whites, who also had their three regular players — skipper and custodian

Ponir, defender Nazrul and Nigerian midfielder Bode Baba back in the team, took the lead as early as in the eighth minute with Don heading home a net cross sent by Bode from the left flank. It was Don's sixth goal in the league.

The margin could have been at least 3-0 in next 12 minutes had Rahmatganj custodian Himu not denied them with a couple of good saves. In the 15th minute, Himu fisted a growler of Arman for a corner diving to his left. After five minutes he denied Don bouncing back his close range shot with sheer guts.

After surviving the close calls, Rahmatganj levelled the score through a corner with defender Shafiqul sending the ball home from a rebounder with an angular shot from the left corner of the box in the 29th minute.

But the Motilheel outfit regained the lead in four minutes when Askar Babu volleyed the ball home after an Arman corner in the 33rd minute.

After the breather, Rahmatganj equalised within 48 seconds of the start. Midfielder Monir after receiving a through from the midfield, went on a solo run before crossing the ball to Asif who blasted the ball into the far corner of the net.

Undaunted Mohammedans kept on plugging away and with 16 minutes on the clock Askar's head put the issue beyond doubt.

It was the holders' sixth victory from ten matches which gave them a temporary lead in the standings having raised their tally to 21 points.

Rahmatganj, who suffered their fourth defeat in ten matches, remained on eight points.

TEAMS

MOHAMMEDAN SC: Ponir, Faisal, Nazrul, Munna Senior, Askar Babu, Ladi Baba (Azim), Arman, Munna Junior, Don, Bode Baba and Alifaz (Ranjani).

RAHMATGANJ MFS: Himu, Ibrahim (Pons), Biplab, Shakil, Shafiqul, Asif, Nayan, Monir (Jahangir), and Nike Lulu.

Referee: R Alam

EAST END BEAT

WANDERERS

In the other match of the day, East End Club defeated Dhaka Wanderers Club 2-1 in the first Division.

The winners led the first half 1-0.

Dipu put the Gendaria outfit ahead in the 29th minute while Babu Zaman scored the other in the 38th minute.

On the other hand, Shafique pulled one back for the losers in the 65th minute.

East End raised their tally to 18 points from 10 matches while Wanderers remained stuck to their previous 14 points after same number of encounters.

Prince Harry couldn't help the Gunners

LONDON, Dec 1: The teenager in a red hat standing on the terraces with a few pals at a soccer match in London on Sunday just happened to be Prince Harry.

The 13-year-old son of Prince Charles and the late Princess Diana spent 90 minutes watching the London team Arsenal play Liverpool.

While Harry did his best to cheer Arsenal on, he failed to inspire them to victory. Arsenal lost 1-0 to Liverpool, continuing their poor form which has seen them win only one of their last six Premier league games.

"It's not the first time Prince Harry has come here, but we were delighted to see him," said Arsenal spokeswoman Clarie Tomlinson.

Lotus-Kamal cricket

Sports Reporter

Prantik Krira Chakra, Mahakhal Cricket Club and New Evergreen won their respective second round matches of the Lotus-Kamal Third Division cricket league qualifiers played at different city venues yesterday.



TIM MUNTON

A fully fit Munton would be a contender, along with the vice-captain Nick Knight and the all-rounder Neil Smith, who captained them in the NatWest Trophy final.

Courtesy: The Electronic Telegraph

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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31 Where the Vikings landed?	40 Steiger or Serling	58 "— alive!"	39 Grinds until smooth																																																																																																																																																																																
33 "your old man!"	41 —	59 Opponent	42 Additional																																																																																																																																																																																
35 Celebrity	42 Coburg-Gotha	1 Down	43 Morning moisture																																																																																																																																																																																
36 Gaffer	43 Smith Bros.	2 material	46 Enthusiasm, plus																																																																																																																																																																																
38 Calvin	44 competitor	3 Mid	50 Erstwhile																																																																																																																																																																																
38 Speed	45 Array of dots	4 Nauseate	51 Sandy's comment																																																																																																																																																																																
	46 Previous to	5 Partic-pants in a bull session	52 Gaffer																																																																																																																																																																																
	48 Past	6 Uruguayan's year	53 Sand																																																																																																																																																																																
	49 Refuse to cooperate	7 Put on the line																																																																																																																																																																																	
	54 Garfield's owner	8 Less of a problem																																																																																																																																																																																	
	55 Vestige	9 Energetic exchange																																																																																																																																																																																	
	56 Dale's master																																																																																																																																																																																		
	57 Candle count																																																																																																																																																																																		

Yesterday's answer: