

Sport

Column One

DID U' KNOW? (The Professor does)

That politics has from time to time crept into sports. Never was the sporting community around the world as strong and united as against the apartheid policy of racial segregation formerly followed in South Africa. The word apartheid means "separateness" in the Afrikaans language and it described the rigid racial division between the governing white minority population and the nonwhite majority population since the National Party won the 1948 elections.

Roost sports WHIZZ KID COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN Competition-89 Tick the Correct Answers Competition closes at 8 pm on March 6, 1998

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

SPORTS TALK



Arjuna Ranatunga (Sri Lankan cricket captain) 'Yes they call me 'Aiyya' (elder brother). It has helped us to stay like a family. I am not a 'Sir' man. I don't like being called 'Sir'. I prefer to be an elder brother or a friend. Being called 'Aiyya' is better than 'Sir'.

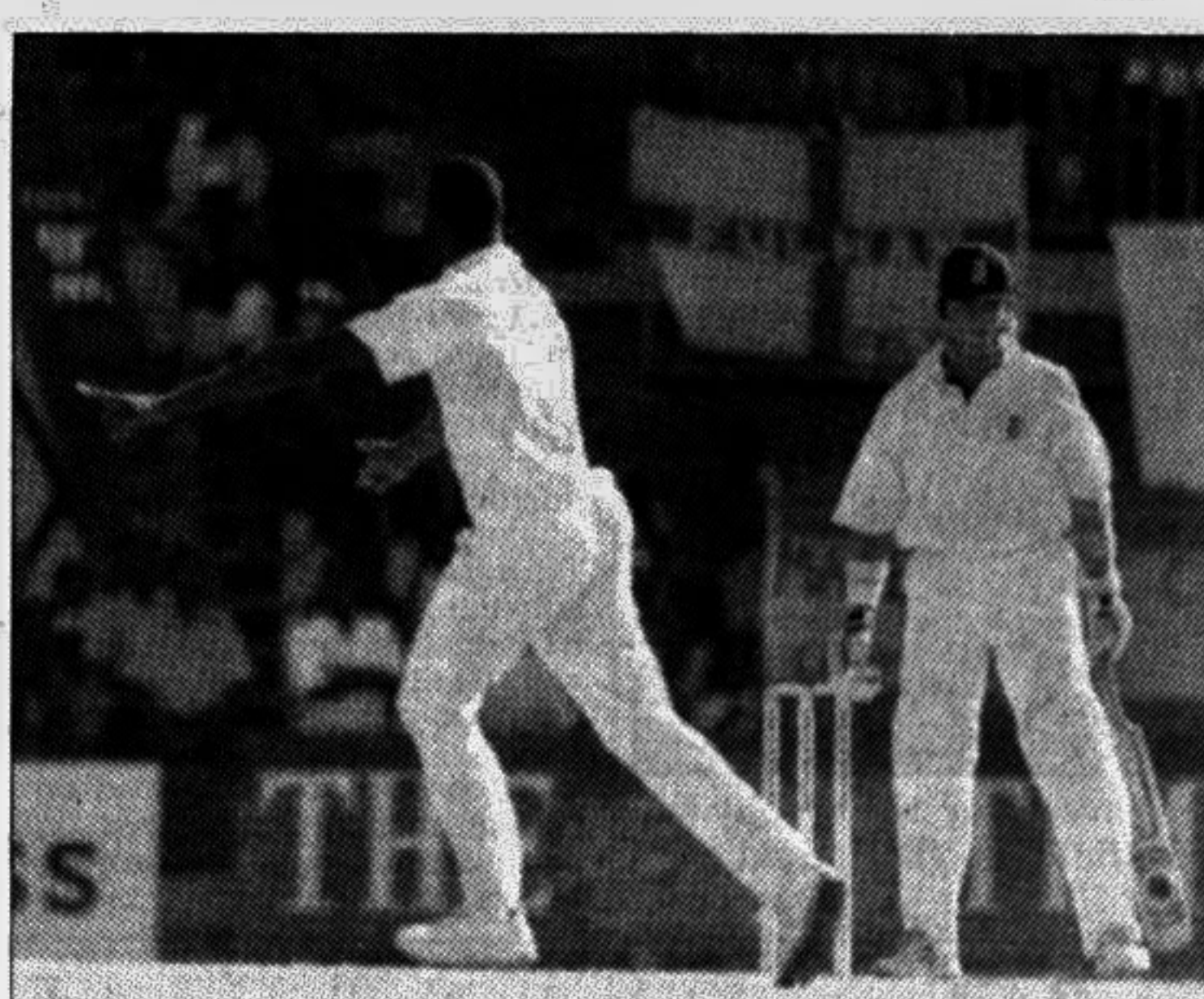
Dynasty Cup

Jo jolts ROK

TOKYO, Mar 1: Japan snatched a goal two minutes from time to beat South Korea 2-1 in the first game at Yokohama International Stadium, the likely venue for the 2002 World Cup final, reports Reuters.

England in Bourda soup

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, Mar 1: England's hopes of taking a 2-1 lead in the six Test series against the West Indies evaporated on the Bourda pitch here Saturday when they collapsed to 87 for six in reply to the home side's first innings total of 352, reports AFP.



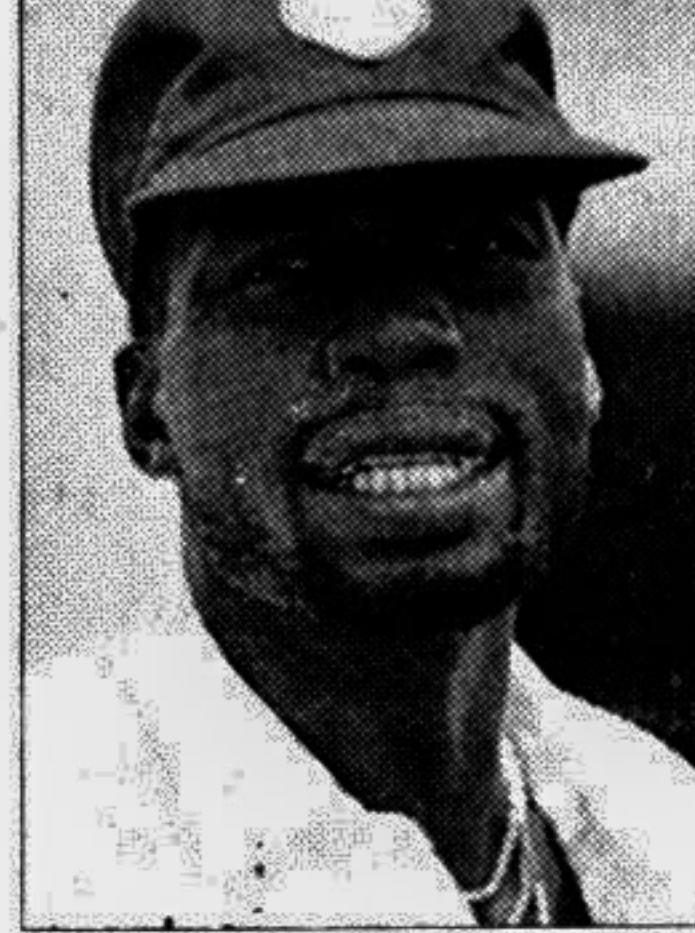
West Indies fast bowler Courtney Walsh (L) is delighted after getting the important wicket of Alec Stewart on the second day of the fourth Test against England at the Bourda ground in Guyana on Feb 28.

By the close England were still 66 runs short of avoiding the follow-on. Mike Atherton's team, having battled back to square the series 1-1 in Trinidad, now need a miracle if they are to save the fourth Test.

The gamble of leaving seamer Andy Caddick out of the side and relying on playing only two front-line pace bowlers and two spinners, did not work although the tourists made better progress on Saturday to dismiss the West Indies for 352 after they had resumed at 271 for three.

edged Angus Fraser to first slip (118). Carl Hooper, who made 43, was out trying to pull Dean Headley but managing only to sky a catch to cover.

Headley took 2 for 25 from eight overs on Saturday, while spinners Phil Tufnell and Croft strangled the lower West Indies batsmen.



AMBROSE... 325th wkt 2 for seven from nine overs, seven of them maidens, while off-spinner Croft's second day return was 2 for 18 from 10.1 overs.

Jack Russell, such a disappointment so far in this series with the bat, lasted only four balls. Newcomer Ramnarine spun a brutal leg-break a full foot and trapped the England wicketkeeper lbw.

It left only Mark Ramprakash, England's last recognised batsman, still at the crease and unbeaten on 13 to try to salvage some pride today.

Robert Croft was the other not out England batsman. Earlier the last seven West Indian wickets fell for only 81 runs.

Shivnarine Chandepaul, Friday's century hero, added only 18 to his total before he bookable offence. Lazio, who beat Inter 3-0 last Sunday and are enjoying one of their most successful runs in recent years, wasted a golden opportunity to keep pace with Juventus at lowly Atalanta.

ITALY: A brilliant goal by Chile's Ivan Zamorano and a late penalty by Ronaldo lifted Inter Milan to a 2-0 win over Napoli on Saturday and kept them four points behind leaders Juventus.

Juventus bounced back from last week's humiliating loss to defeat Bari while Lazio played the last 30 minutes with 10 men - were held to a 0-0 draw by Atalanta Bergamo. Juventus have 51 points, Inter 47 and Lazio 45.

Inter, starting Nigerian star Nwankwo Kanu for the first time since a career-saving heart operation last year, had struggled all night to break down a well-organised Napoli defence at Milan's San Siro Stadium.

But seconds after Zamorano replaced a fatigued Kanu in the 63rd minute, the Chilean international broke the stalemate by slotting home a Francesco Moriero cross with a perfect flick of his right heel.

Stewart later refused to blame the pitch for England's collapse. The England opener claimed that the cratered, dusty Bourda surface was "no misbehaving that much."

"The top of the pitch has been disturbed, especially from one end, and a few deliveries have exploded from certain spots. But, overall, I wouldn't say the pitch has misbehaved and it certainly isn't dangerous," he said.

Ramnarine the West Indies leg-spinner did well on his debut, but I thought Ambrose atop the Premier league. United's victory gave them 59 points with 10 games to play, 12 points ahead of Arsenal and Liverpool.

Chelsea stayed in fourth with 45 points, but could be overtaken by Blackburn, who were to play Leicester on Saturday. The game was the third at the helm for new player-manager Gianluca Vialli and his second loss after beating Arsenal in his debut to reach the League Cup final.

HOLLAND: Ajax Amsterdam continued their march towards the league championship Saturday, brushing aside lowly NEC Nijmegen 3-0.

The result was beyond doubt after a three-goal burst from Ajax half-way through the first half.

Centre back Sunday Oliseh beat two defenders on the edge of the NEC box then opened the scoring with a low drive.

The knockout blows were two rapid-fire goals from Georgian ace Shota Arveladze.

Ajax (20-2-1) have now won all 22 of their fixtures with NEC over the years.

The reappearance as a substitute of injured Portuguese star Dani will encourage Ajax with Tuesday's UEFA Cup quarterfinal clash with Spartak Moscow looming.

BCCI Board XI 223 for four

VISHAKAPATNAM, India, Mar 1 (AP/Reuters): Powered by a 65-run knock by V V S Laxman, India's Board President's Eleven scored 223 for four wickets at close on the first day of the three-day match against Australia in this eastern coastal city.

Skipper Rahul Dravid elected to bat after winning the toss, but his team found it difficult to score against a disciplined attack.

To make matters for Dravid, he was caught and bowled by Shane Warne for six. The star leg-spinner also accounted for Laxman to finish with two for 58. The other wickets were shared by Paul Reiffel (1/28) and Kasprovic (1/32).

Barring Laxman's flamboyant play, the only other batsman, who fared well was S Ramesh who scored 58 before falling to Kasprovic.

AUSTRALIA: S Waugh (captain), I Healy, M Slater, G Waugh, G Blewett, R Ponting, G Robertson, S Warne, A Dale, P Reiffel, M Kasprovic.

England avoid follow-on Sports Reporter An extremely valuable half century by Mark Ramprakash helped England save the follow on against West Indies on the third day of the fourth Test at Georgetown, Guyana yesterday.

Ramprakash was batting on 52 as England managed to cross the follow-on mark of 152 with the last wicket standing a little after lunch. By the time of writing this report England were 160 for nine.

Earlier, resuming on overnight 87 for six England lost the wickets of Robert Croft (24), Dean Headley and Angus Fraser - both for ducks - before the luncheon interval.

Scott steers Queensland

SYDNEY, Mar 1: Queensland recovered from a disastrous top-order collapse to beat New South Wales by two wickets in Australia's domestic limited-over competition final today, reports Reuters.

All-rounder Scott Prestwidge steered the visitors to victory with an unbeaten 42 at the Sydney Cricket Ground to add to his earlier haul of three wickets.

In reply to New South Wales 166 all out in 49.3 overs, Queensland scored 167 for eight with 13 balls to spare.

Prestwidge added 55 runs for the eighth wicket with pace bowler Andy Bichel, who scored 30 and also claimed three wickets.

It was the biggest partnership of the match and helped the visitors to recover their poise after slumping to 40 for five at one stage.

While the recognised batsmen on both runs struggled on a lively pitch, Bichel scored freely, hitting one six and two fours in an innings lasting 41 balls.

It was Queensland's second domestic limited-over title in three years and their sixth in total.

Both sides were weakened by the absence of several senior players because of international duty, including New South Wales batsmen Mark Taylor and Steve Waugh and Queensland wicketkeeper Ian Healy.

French Cup Monaco blank Marseille PARIS, Mar 1: Monaco boosted their morale before meeting Manchester United in the European Cup quarterfinals with a 2-0 French Cup third round victory over Olympique Marseille on Saturday, reports Reuters.

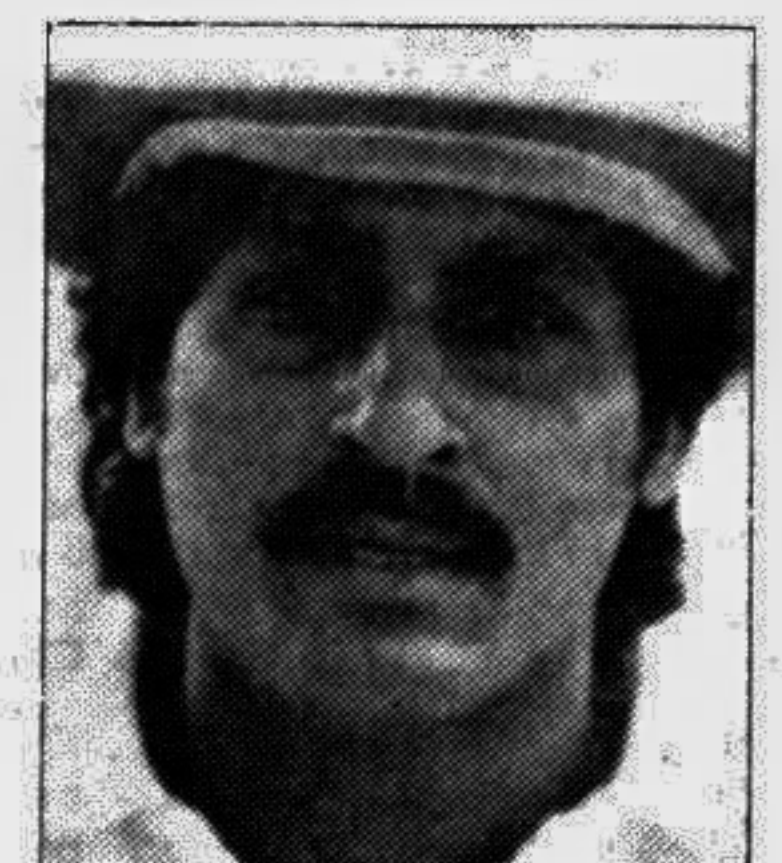
Nigerian striker Victor Ikpeba scored both goals in extra time, running onto a fine longball out of defence from Bosnia captain Muhamed Konjic to slot the ball under Marseille's German goalkeeper Andreas Koepke in the 99th minute for the first.

In the 119th minute, Ikpeba ran after another long ball out of defence, tricking Koepke into going for it outside the box.

The ball sailed over Koepke without the keeper or Ikpeba. Touching it and the Nigerian stroked it home.

It is fairly simple

Pakistan Cricket Board has finally let their beleaguered fast bowler Wasim Akram off the hook. The former captain was dropped recently amid a controversy triggered by match-fixing allegations against him following Pakistan's poor performance at the four-nation Champions' Trophy in Sharjah last year. The great fast bowler of all time however repeatedly denied any wrongdoing. Another former Pakistan skipper Rameez Raja, who played many a match along with Akram, writes on the controversial issue in his column in Pakistan's leading newspaper, The News International.



There is still a lot of cloud cover over Wasim Akram's credibility as an honest player. Senator Iqbal Haider, a member of the standing committee of the Senate on bribery and match fixing has in clear terms stated that the fast bowler has not at all been exonerated of such allegations. Certain quarters in the PCB, government officials and a majority of cricketers are convinced that he has been either directly or indirectly, involved in sinister activities.

Khalid Mehmood, the newly appointed PCB president seems to want to go against the tide and bring him back in the team because of a lack of substantial evidence. There seems to be a tug of war of opinions which has made the picture quite blurred and murky at the moment.

The PCB under Majid Khan were willing to give the benefit of the doubt to Wasim Akram, even when they were under tremendous public pressure to side line him, until sadly his father was kidnapped. This ghastly act did hurt him in many ways. Besides mentally jolting him, it created a platform of certainty for the general public and the cricket authorities to certify the earlier doubts of his alleged misdeemeanour.

The corridors of power had to be dragged into this controversy. The situation for them indeed has become a volatile one. They are in a quandary as how to tackle the issue. They do not want to twist the arms of "beleaguered national heroes" in public to ignite a negative chain reaction of opinions. On the other hand, they also do not wish to sit back and be mere spectators to see a crippling moral disease establishing its roots in a "King's Sport".

So many committees and sub-committees since then have been formed to iron out the issue but to no avail. Hung decisions and delaying tactics is about all that they have been able to process so far. They say they are waiting for someone to come up with concrete evidence.

The affidavit submitted by Ata-ur-Rehman against Wasim is not being considered as valid where as Wasim's self-proclaimed defence is being considered good enough for him to take "the first available flight to South Africa", even though not being acquitted by the Senate committee. Strange! To clean the house and to provide a clear "policy aperture", I suggest that we go by the adage, "The conviction should prevail. Compromises should be avoided".

To rectify the fluid situation, a barometer should be used to gauge the extent of the involvement of a player. This scale could easily be provided by a fellow player. A Test cricketer's greatest medal of honour is the respect of his co-player in the four walls of the dressing room. Words spoken in his awe are

like gold dust to him. For years on, a lot of time is spent by them together to create a niche for each other.

They also in turn become each others best "marketing agents". Any observation that eventually catches on with the public is first established in the dressing room. Inzamam's lazy and lethargic approach in running between the wickets was voiced in the changing room before it became apparent for everyone to notice it when they saw him getting run out every now and then. Betting allegations and match fixing became a ginny only when the players themselves took the lid off it to take the world by storm. A consistent and an un-wavering policy has to be established to pluck all such weeds out of our cricket system. Players should be given the confidence to come forward and register their views to the PCB regarding betting allegations and match fixing.

Their words should be given weightage and be considered good enough to help form a line of action.

Past reports of managers and captains should be consulted if an element of bias is seen being established by a certain player because of a long personal grudge.

Video recordings of all those games which have been thought to be "sold out" should be seen by cricket experts to give their opinion on the matter. It is an open secret now that certain players have privately confessed of being "naughty" at times with their buddies in the team. How can any one let such statements be swept under the carpet? We must remember that no concrete evidence has ever been furnished against a sportsman to dishonour him in the court of law. The more there is a delay in sorting matters in a fair way, the more will be the impact of a dented image of Pakistan cricket.

Courtesy: The News International

Hosts post second win

RAWALPINDI, Mar 1: India's Ramandeep Singh missed a penalty-stroke here today to give Pakistan their second victory in the eight-game hockey Test series, reports AP.

Pakistan won 2-1. Centre-forward Kamran Ashraf put the hosts ahead in

16th minute capitalising on a fine cross by Shahbaz Ahmed from the right flank.

Sohail Abbas scored the second goal in the 39th minute off a hard push from Pakistan's third short corner.

India's lone goal came from experienced skipper and centre forward Dhanraj Pillai in the 43rd minute. Indians appeared set to tie the match in the 50th minute but Pakistan goalkeeper Ahmed Alam made a fine save off Ramandeep's push from the spot. The 10,000 home fans cheered Alam.

His counterpart M Sommayya said that India should have won the match. "We made good moves but the finishing touch was not there," he said.

But he warned Pakistan of a tough time in the next two games to be played in Pakistan. The last four games of the series will be played in India.

Shahbaz Ahmed, the veteran Pakistan forward, made a brilliant move in the ninth minute of play beating off three Indian players. A fine save by goalkeeper Lazarus Barla kept the score down.

The third Test will be played in Lahore on March 5 with the last in Karachi on March 7.

PAKISTAN: Tahir Zaman (goalkeeper), Danish Kaleem, Naved Alam, Mohammad Usman, Imran Yusuf, Mohammad Waseem, Rahim Khan, Kamran Ashraf, Shahbaz Ahmed Sr, Mohammad Shahbaz, Sohail Abbas, Asif Ahmed, Ali Raza.

INDIA: A B Subbiah, Dilip Tirkey, Lazarus Barla, Baljit Singh, Mukesh Kumar, Ramandeep Singh, Sukhbir Singh, Harbajan Singh, Trimul Valan, Sabu Varkey, Dhanraj Pillai (captain), Samir Dad, Rajesh Chahian.



Kamran Ashraf (3rd from L) of Pakistan is ecstatic after scoring a goal against India during the first of the eight-match series at Peshawar on Feb 28. Pakistan won 4-1.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

CROSSWORD puzzle grid with clues: 1 Nothing, to 37 Terrier type; 5 Use cables 40 Lambda; 9 Sandwich fill; 12 Copies; 13 One side of the Urals; 14 Idolater's emotion; 15 Pudd'n-head Wilson's creator; 17 Section of L.A.; 18 Jimmy Carter's hometown; 19 Rings; 21 Treasure St.; 22 State of India; 24 Fiery saint; 27 Circle section; 28 Welles role; 31 - long way; 32 Actress Thurman; 33 Uncivilized; 34 Quayle's successor; 36 CSA; 11 Disorder with a kick; 16 Stick while acorn; 20 Erstwhile rumble; 22 Ready to rumble; 23 Sign of healing; 24 Future phalarope story?; 25 Card game; 26 Sale price, e.g.; 27 Emanation; 29 Aye canceler; 30 Ram's 'am; 35 Away from WSW; 37 - squash; 39 Macaroni type; 40 Jongg lead-in; 41 Tibetan herd; 42 Music halls; 43 Highlander; 44 Unadorned; 45 Belligerent deity; 46 Revue segment; 49 Yalie; 50 Zlich

CRYPTOQUIP puzzle grid: O S J O C I O S R M V G S F O C F T O R V H G V V C H G K M V G R B G V K B H J S S K I C K T J O R K C O K C R

Yesterday's Cryptquip: YOU COULD DEFINITELY SAY AN ICICLE IS A STIFF UPPER DRIP. Today's Cryptquip clue: H equals G 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.

Officers' club bridge

The monthly duplicate pairs bridge tournament of the Officers' Club will be held at 6 pm today, reports UNB.