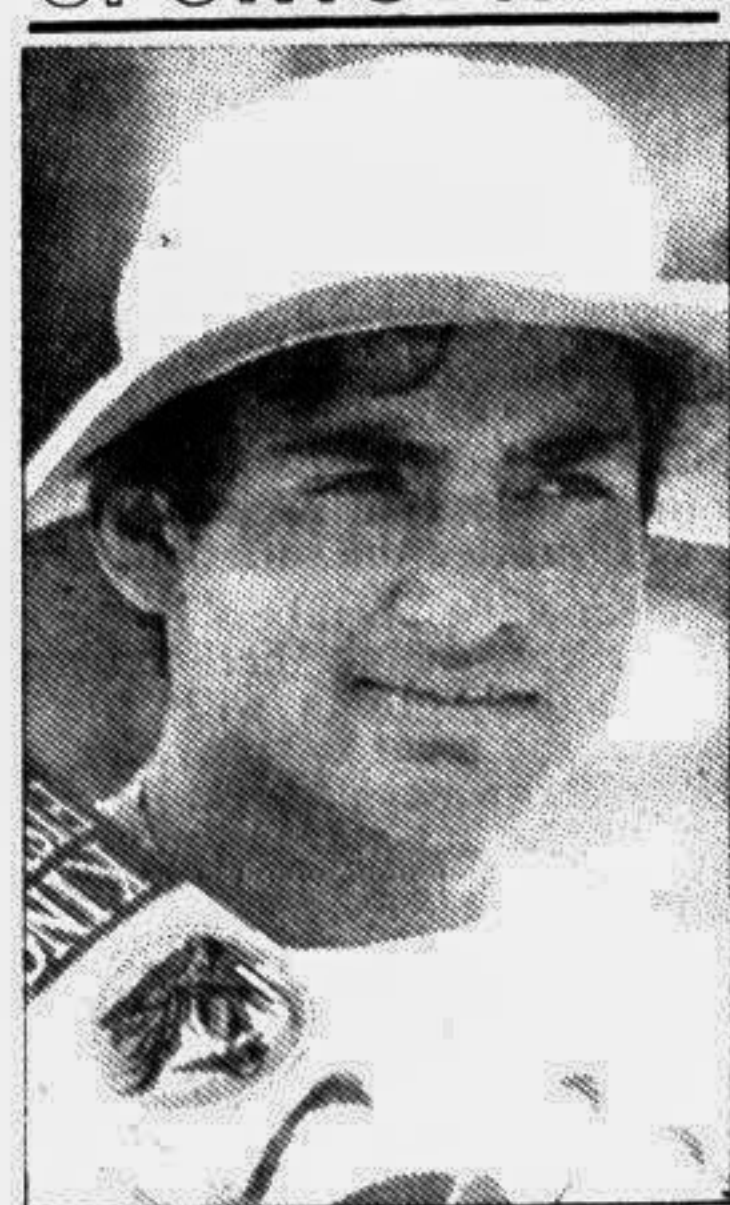


Sport

Column One

SPORTS TALK

Ajay Jadeja
(Indian cricketer)

"I think it is only attitude that explains my appeal among cricket lovers today. I am no great looker — there must be nine hundred and ninety-nine millions in this country who are better looking than me. If I am still liked it is for my attitude. I guess."

Sports

WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Competition-94

✓ Tick the Correct Answers
Post to The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
on May 15, 1998

1	Jahangir Talukdar Dulu plays (competitive)	
2	In how many stadia World Cup '98 will be held	
3	Gordon Greenidge was a	
4	Bowler	Batsman
5	Bangladesh's current FIFA ranking is	
6	138th	142nd
7	Bangladesh U-16 football team scored 11 goals against	
8	Nepal	Sri Lanka
9		Guam

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (if any)

Ahsan made BCB EC member

Sports Reporter

The National Sports Council (NSC) has selected Ali Ahsan Babu as a member of the new executive committee (EC) of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB).

Babu apart, the NSC also chosen six other members for six federations on Monday. They are — Farukul Islam (Bangladesh Amateur Athletics Federation); Mahtabur Rahman Bulbul (Bangladesh Basketball Federation); Nasiruddin Lovlu (Bangladesh Handball Federation); ATM Giasuddin (Bangladesh Chess Federation); Habibur Rahman (Bangladesh Wrestling Federation) and Khanndkar M Mohiuddin (Bangladesh Cycling Federation).

4-a-side h'ball from May 12

The Sheetal four-a-side handball competition begins at the ground near Dhaka Stadium on May 12, reports UNB.

Eight teams — Menzies KC, West Jatrabari KC, Jatrabari KC, Old Ideals, Victoria SC, Bangladesh Boys Club, Shatabdi Boys Club and Mansoor SC — are expected to participate in the first ever meet of its kind.

Wednesday 6th May

(All programmes are in local time but subject to last minute change)

BBC

8:00am BBC News Followed by Weather 8:30 Asia Today 8:45 World Business Report 9:00 BBC News Followed by Weather 9:30 Asia Today 9:45 World Business Report 10:00 BBC News Followed by Weather 10:30 World Focus: Reporters 11:00 BBC News Followed by Weather 11:30 World Living: Holiday 12:00 BBC News Followed by Weather 12:30 Hardtalk 1:00 BBC News Followed by Weather 1:30 World Living: Earth Report: East Africa 2:00 BBC News Followed by Weather 2:30 World Focus: Reporters 3:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 3:30 Hardtalk 4:00 BBC News Followed by Weather 4:30 World Living: Film 5:00 The World Today 6:30 Wild World: The Velvet Claw 7:00pm BBC World News 7:15 World Business Report Followed by Weather 7:30 The World Today 8:30 World Living: The Clothes

Selectors eat their own words

Syed Ashfaqul Haque



Selectors at the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCB) sadly got back to Square One on April 27, prematurely calling off their 10-month-old venture to form a team of the future when they announced squad for the Pepsi Cup triangular tournament, starting in India from May 14.

Instead of injecting fresh blood into the team, the selection committee, led by Lutfar Rahman, fell back upon the old guards, who were once dropped from the national team on the grounds of poor performance, lack of motivation and conviction following the ICC Trophy triumph of Bangladesh last year. Evidently, the panel of five selectors did not bother much about the hopes of the aspiring young cricketers in the reckoning who were raring for a fair crack of the whip at the top level of the game. They tried to justify this regression by saying that the experiment with the youngsters had 'virtually backfired'.

While making the official announcement in front of newsmen, former national captain Shaiful Haq Hira, now a senior member in the selection team of BCB, stepped forward to dampen the spirit of numerous young players. When the sports bulls were singing praises of the BCB for its initiative to induct young talents alongside experienced and consistent peers of the national team, the former wicketkeeper, oblivious to the reality, went to say, "We have experimented too early and it has hardly helped our cause."

Earlier, BCB had made a big fuss over having woken up to the necessity of replacing the old guards with new faces. Shaiful himself was a 'wise' member of the selection panel when the decision was taken to ring in changes. But few months down the line when it appeared that at last Bangladesh cricket was heading for a goal after having experienced a few ups and downs, Shaiful and his peers seem to be at an altogether different ball game.

If it was a wrong decision,

can the players be blamed for that? Was not it a policy failure? Instead of passing the buck on new kids, they should take the blame on their own shoulders and then hand over the responsibility to someone eligible.

Shaiful justified their decision by saying, "It's not that we have picked them by name, but we've taken those who performed well in recent past."



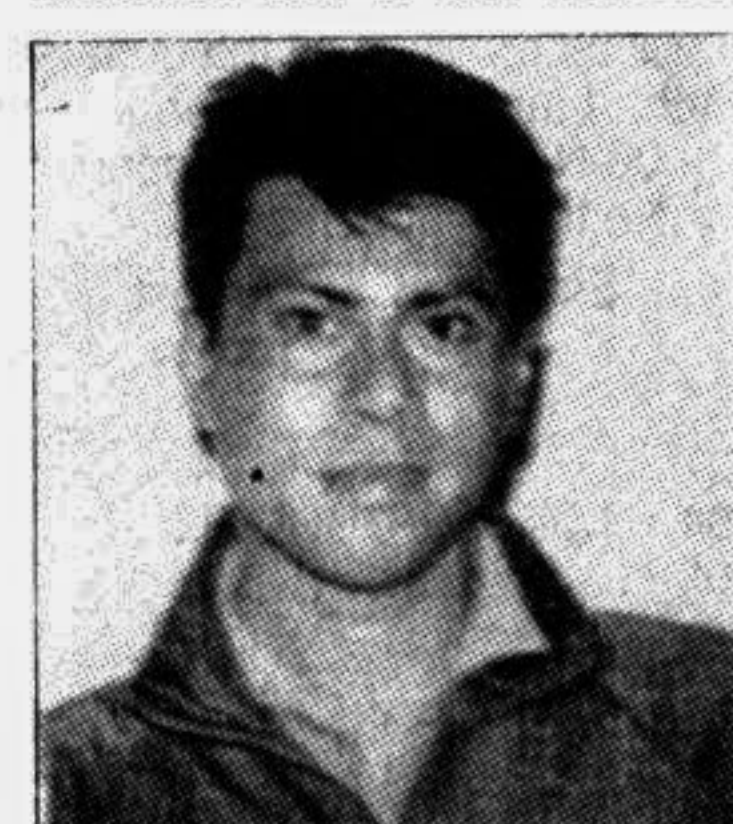
ATHAR ALI

The so-called recent performances of some of the players however tell a different tale. Top two run-getters in the recently concluded domestic league, Shahriar Hossain and Azam Iqbal, failed to make it to the India-bound final fourteen. Opener Shahriar scored 632 runs at an average of 42.13 in ten matches while opener Azam Iqbal, who was a symbol of consistency for his team Abahani Krira Chakra, averaged 38.82 after scoring 538 runs in 16 matches. Whereas 36-year-old opener Athar Ali Khan, who scored only 170 in 10 matches at an average of 18.88, found no difficulty to make an unjustly return to the top flight.

Unlike Minhazul Abedin, who roared back to the team demonstrating a series of ripping performances after being ignored by the selectors, Athar failed miserably to revive his pristine touch with the willow since he was left out of the Independence Cup team of Bangladesh.

On the other hand, soon af-

ter his exclusion from the national team for the first time in his decade-long career, Minhaz vowed to the sympathetic journalists that he would certainly return to the team on the strength of his performance. The bat of the gutsy Chittagongian did talk in the domestic



MINHAZUL ABEDIN

league and in Pakistan tour of the national team to silence even his worst critic. Once dubbed as the only professional player in Bangladesh by Mohindar Amarnath, the former Indian coach, Minhaz scored 528 runs in 14 matches at an average of 48.00.

There would not have been any controversy if some of the other recalled veterans could take a leaf out of Minhaz's book. Truth is they did not. And selectors did not seem to mind bringing that hated dictum of two rules for one game into play.

BCB's target should be to transform Bangladesh as a force to reckon with in one-day cricket within the next few years. It would not be possible if it does not cash in on the great enthusiasm for the game stirred around the country since the Kuala Lumpur conquest. The policy to count on new guns may not give fruits instantly. But if we persist with the youngsters it would not be long before we see them delivering goods. And if we don't do it right now, the next century may see us fiddling and fielding with the same old combination.

UEFA Cup final today

Lazio face Ronaldo factor



PARIS, May 5: Ronaldo can earn his second European title in as many years Wednesday and end a springtime of frustration when his team Inter Milan face Lazio in the all-Italian UEFA Cup final, reports AP.

The first of the three European cup finals further underlines the pre-eminence of Italy's Serie A league. Together with Juventus in the Champions' Cup, Italy provides half the finalists in the three competitions. It is also the fourth time this decade Italy has both finalists in the UEFA Cup.

Inter came into the final at the 45,000-capacity Parc des Princes a favourite even though they have hit on hard times over the past month when their challenge for the Italian league title faltered. Lazio also had a series of mediocre results but redeemed last week, beating AC Milan to win the Italian Cup.

For the first time in the competition, the cup will be decided in a single final instead of the customary home and away series.

Inter are going for their third UEFA title this decade. The last one came in 1994 when the team relied on the central Dutch axis of Dennis Bergkamp and W. Jonk. Last year, they lost the final to Germany's Schalke.

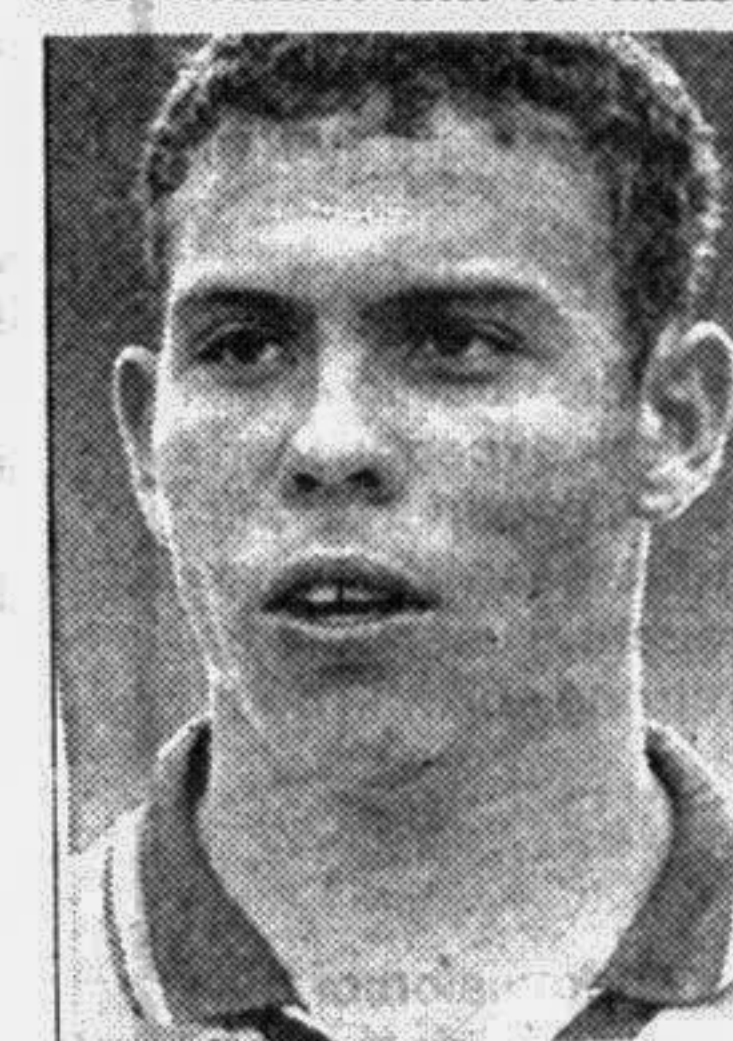
This time the team is built around Brazilian superstar Ronaldo, determined to win a trophy in his first year since his controversial move from Barcelona, for whom he scored the winning goal in the Cup Winners' Cup final last year.

For Ronaldo, it is the last game of significance ahead of Brazil's June 10 World Cup opener against Scotland. And he could use a bit of champagne to wash away the bitterness of the last month.

"Now I have to forget every-

thing and centre on the final," he said.

Inter long challenged Juventus for the league and a fateful loss in Turin last month will always be remembered for the incident when Ronaldo went down in the penalty area without any reaction from the referee. Moments later Juventus



RONALDO

got a controversial penalty at the other end.

Ronaldo complained so bitterly he was served a two-match suspension, which was later overturned.

"Let's forget about ungiven penalties and the Italian title," said Inter goalkeeper Gianluca Pagliuca. "The UEFA Cup is an important trophy which can give us some consolation in an unlucky season."

Life for Ronaldo got worse when he went to Brazil to play Argentina. Brazil were beaten at home by their arch rivals and Ronaldo's lacklustre approach had the fans and critics crying foul.

For Inter though, he has come through on several occasions and remains key to any success for the Milanese team.

Coach Luigi Simoni has failed to turn his international array of stars into a scoring machine and has had to count too often on Ronaldo's flashes of brilliance to turn a game around. The Brazilian's two semifinal goals against Spartak Moscow were a case in point.

"They field the world's greatest striker who can be decisive in every match," said Lazio's coach Sven-Goran Eriksson.

Lazio at their best would be serious challengers yet they are missing key players for their most important match since winning the Italian league in 1974. Up front Croatian striker Alen Boksic is injured and in defence Argentina's Antonio Chamot is also forced to the sidelines.

On top of that Czech Pavel Nedved is nursing a sore back.

Martina leads money-makers' list

ST PETERSBURG, Florida, May 5 (Reuters): Leading money-winners in women's tennis, according to the WTA Tour:

Player	Dollars
1. Martina Hingis	1,015,704
2. Lindsay Davenport	507,100
3. Venus Williams	419,050
4. Conchita Martinez	345,636
5. Amanda Coetzer	275,769
6. Jana Novotna	263,922
7. Mary Pierce	229,667
8. Anna Kournikova	223,440
9. Arantxa Sanchez Vicario	223,248
10. Patty Schnyder	205,778
11. Natasha Zvereva	182,028
12. Mirjana Lucic	169,798
13. Anke Huber	169,277
14. Ai Sugiyama	167,789
15. Dominique van Roost	146,952
16. Lisa Raymond	127,654
17. Irina Spilaea	116,938
18. Iva Majoli	112,200
19. Sandrine Testud	104,430
20. Elena Likhovtseva	103,719

Independence Cup SL to provide 'watertight' security

COLOMBO, May 5 (AP): Bombs marred two previous trips to Sri Lanka by New Zealand's cricket team. This time, a security officials said Tuesday, security will be "watertight."

The New Zealand team arrives May 15 for a seven-week tour that includes the Independence Cup series against India and Sri Lanka.

"We are going to secure the hotel floors where the teams will stay and make watertight arrangements at all other places," said Lucky Kodituwakku, senior deputy inspector general of police. Police commands will be stationed at the hotel and teams will be guarded during travel to and from cricket grounds.

New Zealand's 1987 tour was abandoned after just the first Test after a bomb blast in Colombo's bus station killed 113 people. Five years later, coach Warren Lees and five players returned to Wellington after a bomb exploded outside the team's hotel in Colombo. Reinforcements were sent, and the tour continued.

Australia and the West Indies refused to play their World Cup matches in Sri Lanka in 1996 because of security fears.

Alec in the hot seat

LONDON, May 5: Alec Stewart was named Tuesday as England's cricket Test captain, beating out Nasser Hussain for one of the most high-profile jobs in British sport, reports AP.

Stewart, 35, will captain the side for this summer's five-Test series against South Africa and the single Test against Sri Lanka in August.

Adam Hoolioake, Stewart's team captain at Surrey, retained the leadership of England's one-day team for this month's series against the South Africans.

Stewart succeeds Mike Atherton, who resigned last month after four and a half years as captain.

"It came down a decision between two — Alec and Nasser," chairman of selectors David Graveney said. "The deciding factor is Alec's experience and respect within team."

Alec's experience coupled with the respect in which he is held by the players convinced us that he is the man to lead the Test side.

Graveney said Stewart would continue to bat in the top order, while admitting that he is likely to resume wicketkeeping duties, too.

Stewart's appointment does not necessarily mean he will give up the wicketkeeping role altogether.

"I'll be three or four if I do keep wicket," he said. "I've always said that if it's in the best interests of the team, then I'll do it."

Graveney also confirmed that Stewart, unlike Atherton last year, will serve on the Test selection panel.

Nebiollo's protest

MONTE CARLO, Monaco, May 5: IAAF president Primo Nebiollo Friday strongly protested the possible conversion of Berlin's historic stadium, where Jesse Owens won four gold medals in track and field at the 1936 Olympics, to a pure soccer venue, reports AP.

Nebiollo wrote a protest letter to Berlin city officials on behalf of the world's governing body for track and field. The city leaders are under pressure to upgrade the dilapidated 90,000-seat stadium, sections of which have been declared unsafe, to help Germany's 2006 World Cup bid.

The possibility the famous venue could be torn down or abandoned in favour of a new stadium has unleashed a furious debate in Germany.

"The Olympic stadium in Berlin is one of the most highly regarded multi-sport arenas in the world," Nebiollo wrote to Berlin Mayor Eberhard Diepgen.

Rajshahi rout Kurigram Nayan slams 2nd ton

Sports Reporter



Rajshahi, aided by a brilliant century from Nayan, stormed into the Thakurgaon Zone final of the 24th national cricket championship defeating Kurigram by 219 runs yesterday.

Nayan scored 101 off 168 balls as Rajshahi, batting first piled up 247 before being all out in 67 overs. It was the second ton of the championship after Babu's dazzling 103 for Narasingdi on Saturday, the inaugural day of the meet.

But the two-day match turned into a top-sided affair when Kurigram, in their chase, lasted only 11 overs before being bundled out for a meagre 28.

Sayed with a five wicket haul did most of the damage in the vulnerable Kurigram batting line-up while Saad captured three wickets for 13 runs.

Rajshahi will now have to wait for the outcome of the Rangpur and Dinajpur match to know their opponents in the three-day final, starting at

Thakurgaon Stadium on May 10.

Meanwhile, in other match of the day at Sathkira, Khulna, sent into bat by Barisal, amassed a commanding total of 269 before being all out in 78.4 overs.

Tapan top-scored with a defiant 63 off 153 balls punctuated with eight fours, Mintu hammered a quartet of fours and a sixer in his 100-ball 56. But the real thrust in the Khulna innings was provided by Paltu and Milton. Paltu scored a quick-fire 39 off 41 balls laced with three fours and two sixes. Milton scored 23 off only 22 balls which included two towering sixes and a boundary.

For Barisal, Totam captured four wicket for 52 runs. Moni with three for 41 and Shamim, who claimed two wicket for 19 runs, were the other notable wicket-taker for Barisal.

Set to score a little less than 3.5 runs per over, Barisal will begin their chase today.

NSC, Siemens sign agreement

Sports Reporter

The National Sports Council (NSC) yesterday signed an agreement with Siemens Bangladesh Limited for the supply, installation and commissioning of the new flood-lighting system at the Bangladesh National Stadium for the forthcoming Wills International Cup cricket tournament to be held in October.

Nurul Haque Pradhan, director, Planning and Development, signed the agreement on behalf of the NSC while Soeren Rendal and Feroze Ahmed, managing director and general manager of Siemens Bangladesh Limited, respectively signed on behalf of the German company.

According to the agreement, the lighting system will be installed on four new lattice towers within 150 days.

But Pradhan said last night over telephone that the Letter of Intent for the work has already been issued on May 30 from when the days will be counted.

"We have completed the formalities today. But because of the time constraint, the Letter of Intent has been issued last week," he added.

Taylor takes his horns back



MELBOURNE, May 5: Mark Taylor wants to continue as Australia's Test cricket captain despite his frustration at being left out of the limited-over side, reports Reuters.

Taylor had considered stepping a side to let Steve Waugh lead Australia in both forms of the game.

But Speaking today after meeting the Australian Cricket Board (ACB), Taylor said he was

now happy to be considered for the Test team only.

"I don't think Mark Taylor is going to play any more one-day games for Australia," he said.

"I accepted that fact in October-November last year. My future is business as usual, making myself available firstly for (the tour of) Pakistan and, if selected, appointed captain of that tour."

Taylor was one of five Australian players sent home from the recent tour of India after the Test series, leaving Waugh in

charge of a triangular one-day tournament with India and Zimbabwe.

Taylor, a left-handed opener who has scored centuries in each of Australia's last four Test series, criticised the ACB decision to appoint separate captains and said on his return to Australia that he was considering his future.

But after today's meeting Taylor said he was happy to stay on, mainly because of the ACB's decision to split the 1998-99 Australian summer programme into two distinct blocks, with the five Test series against England to be played before the start of the limited-over tournament.

"As captain you get hold of a team for a week then lose them for two or three weeks," he said. "You don't have this cross-over (with the new programme)."

Waugh, who also attended today's meeting, said he had no objections to the plan.

South Asian h'ball July 22-27

India, Pakistan and Nepal have confirmed their participation in the second south Asian handball championship to be held in the capital from July 22 to 27 later this year, reports UNB.

Four teams including Bangladesh will take part in the men's and women's competition to be held at the Mirpur Indoor Stadium.

Bangladesh finished runners-up in the women's competition in the first edition of the tournament in 1986 at Jaipur, India. The hosts won both the men's and women's titles at that time.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Convince

5 Archery need

8 A March sister

12 Base for 53 Across

13 Chemical suffix

14 Here, to 53 Across

15 Exchange

16 Absolutely

18 Intensely

20 Yacht harbors

21 Basie's "Clock Jump"

23 Capitol V.P.

24 Bridge

31 Acapulco gold

32 Pizzeria purchase

34 TV Tarzan

35 Frogs' hangout

37 Absolutely

39 Some-where out

there

41 Hwy's

42 Missing link

45 Metal mixes

49 Absolutely

51 Adhem's son

52 Raw rocks

53 Islands' finger food

54 Goddess of victory

55 Stench

56 Moment

57 Act

DOWN

1 Luminary

2 Carry on

3 Saharan

4 "Hey!"

5 With cynicism

6 Japanese

7 "Dragnet" star

8 Low-voiced singers

9 Gear

10 Revolve

11 Wastes no time

17 Corn

19 Responsibility

22 Wicker-work

24 "Alley—"

25 Back

26 One who is consulted

27 More than happy

29 Pub quiz

30 Loony

33 Dusseldorf

36 Pinkish color

38 Manhattan, e.g.

40 Flyers

42 Get an effort

43 Hole in the head?

44 Sistas

46 Theater prize

47 Oxen's linkup

48 Sought damages

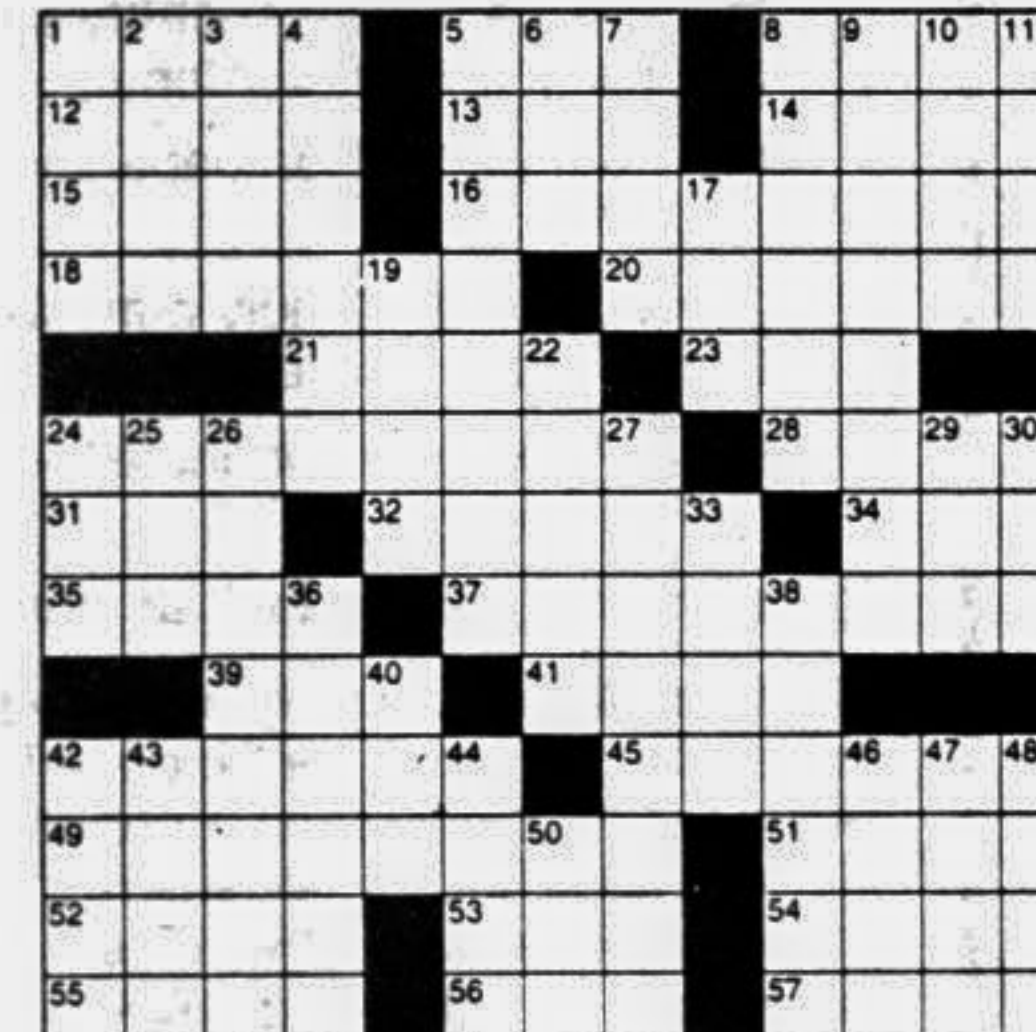
50 Miler

Sebastian

Solution time: 26 min.

PIPED MOHART
TITINEAR AKIMIBO
USIEDIO CLAWELIN
GAZIA PREY RDS
LOUSE SRI
CUE WOMB TIED
ANGELFOODCAKE
BOOM FRAUD NEW
MUSIC SITE
SPA ABEL ASTA
CONNIE OBTAIN
ONTIONS ARISEN
TEASET DANIES

Yesterday's answer



CRYPTOQUIP
ZJV MQQMZFPRV YCRRPVQ
AJCLZA ZJMA FZ JMA
RCZJVQACBV YLACZBVQA
AJCC!

Saturday's Cryptquip: THE LENS MAKER LIKES REMINDING HIS FRIENDS THAT HIS LIFE IS A REAL GRIND.

Today's Cryptquip clue: R equals B
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.

The Daily Star TV Guide

<p>8:00am BBC News Followed by Weather 8:30 Asia Today 8:45 World Business Report 9:00 BBC News Followed by Weather 9:30 Asia Today 9:45 World Business Report 10:00 BBC News Followed by Weather 10:30 World Focus: Reporters 11:00 BBC News Followed by Weather 11:30 World Living: Holiday 12:00 BBC News Followed by Weather 12:30 Hardtalk 1:00 BBC News Followed by Weather 1:30 World Living: Earth Report: East Africa 2:00 BBC News Followed by Weather 2:30 World Focus: Reporters 3:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 3:30 Hardtalk 4:00 BBC News Followed by Weather 4:30 World Living: Film 5:00 The World Today 6:30 Wild World: The Velvet Claw 7:00pm BBC World News 7:15 World Business Report Followed by Weather 7:30 The World Today 8:30 World Living: The Clothes</p>	<p>Show 9:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 9:30 Hardtalk 10:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 10:30 World Living: Holiday 11:00 The World Today 12:30am Hardtalk 1:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 1:30 World Focus: The Money Programme 2:00 BBC World News 2:10 World Business Report Followed by Weather 2:30 World Living: Top Gear 3:00 BBC World News 3:10 Europe Direct 4:00 BBC World News 4:15 World Business Report Followed by Weather 4:30 Hardtalk 5:00 BBC World Headlines 5:05 USA Direct 5:30 World Focus: Reporters 6:00 BBC News Followed by Weather 6:30 World Living: Holiday 7:00 BBC News Followed by Weather 7:30 BBC Asia Today 7:45 World Business Report</p>	<p>Close Up Close Encounters 4:00 Turn On TV 4:30 Volume Double 5:30 Turn On TV 6:30 By Demand VJ Trey 7:30 Liberty-First Day First Show 8:00 House Arrest 8:30 Kingfisher Mangta Hai 9:30 Turn On TV 10:30 Liberty-First Day First Show 10:30 Turn On TV 11:30 Amped 12:00am Turn On TV 2:30 Hebat VJ Joey 3:30 Turn On TV 4:00 Billboard US Countdown</p>	<p>ries: The X-Files 11:30 Awaaz 12:00mn The Bold & the Beautiful 12:30 Star News (Eng) 1:00 Newheart 1:30 LA Law 2:00 Double South 3:30 Charlies Angels 4:30 Santa Barbara 5:30 The Oprah Winfrey Show</p>	<p>jaat Barai Khud Kafalat 9:00 Sur Savaria & Sehra Ka Safar & Sada-e-Kasimr 9:40 Shana Ba Shana 9:50 Aaj Ki Kitaabo-Aik Nazm 10:05 Boor Kay Ladoo 10:30 English Film: Chip And Dale 10:55 Milli Naghma 11:00 Khabrain 11:10 Serial: 11:35 Khabrain 12:00 Urdu Khaal: 12:55 Quran-e-Hakeem 1:02 Bismillah 1:15 Drama Serial: 2:00 Serial: 2:50 The Earth Revealed 3:20 Aarshi Puda 3:40 Natural world 4:35 How Things Work 5:00 Yeh Mumukh in Kitab 5:25 Hamara Sehat 5:55 Kitab Quiz 6:25 Ajour Courses 7:00 Tarunam 7:05 Felix The Cat (cartoon) 7:30 Such Gup 7:45 English News 8:00 Moven Gold Raceway 8:25 Jawan Rang 8:55 PTV Gold (Prog) 9:00 Break for Headline News 9:20 Aap Ki Anwar Maqsood 10:00 Khabarnama & Commercial News 11:00 Serial: 12:00 NYPD Blue (series) 12:45 Khas Khabrain / Close Down</p>	<p>Positive Health Show 10:30 Naya Nagmeen 11:00 Hum Zameen 11:30 Zee News Update 11:50 Zee Business News 12:00 Bournvita Quiz Contest 12:30 Haseen Pal (Trailer Show) 1:00 Zee World 1:30 Zee Film: Hindi Bulletin 2:00 Hindi News: Hindi Nagme 5:30 Jagran 6:00 Centre Stage 6:30 The Shotgun Show 7:00 Haseen Pal (Trailer Show) 7:30 The Shotgun Show/Question Hour 8:00 Ru-Ba-Ru 8:30 Zee News-English 8:50 Zee Face To Face 9:00 India Votes: Vision Beyond 5:00 </p>
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