

## M'singh hockey

MYMENSINGH, May 6: Mohammed SC and Siraj Memorial Club earned massive victories against their respective rivals in the First Division hockey league at the local stadium today, reports UNB.

In the first match, two hat-tricks by Harun and Don enabled Mohammedans to overwhelm Provat Sena Club 10-0. Harun scored four goals, Don three, Jhunu two and Refi one for the winners.

In another match, Siraj Memorial Club crushed Mukul Boys Club 11-1 with a hat-trick by Soheli who scored six goals in total.

Riad and Shahin netted two each and Sumon one for the winners while Titu scored the consolation goal for the losers.

## Hockeyroos beat S Africa

PERTH, May 6: Olympic champions Australia defeated a gallant South Africa 3-1 on the second night of the four-nation Telstra Challenge women's hockey series at the Perth Hockey Stadium today, reports AFP.

In cool conditions, the Hockeyroos completed a workmanlike victory after whipping South Korea 4-0 on the opening night.

Shelley Andrews gave Australia the lead in the 16th minute against South Africa. The same player made it 2-0 after 51 minutes and Katrina Powell added a third in the 59th.

# Astle attuned to attack



UNDATED. May 6 (AFP): Nathan Astle is New Zealand's most effective one-day batsman and if he realises his potential to be one of the stars of the 1999 World Cup.

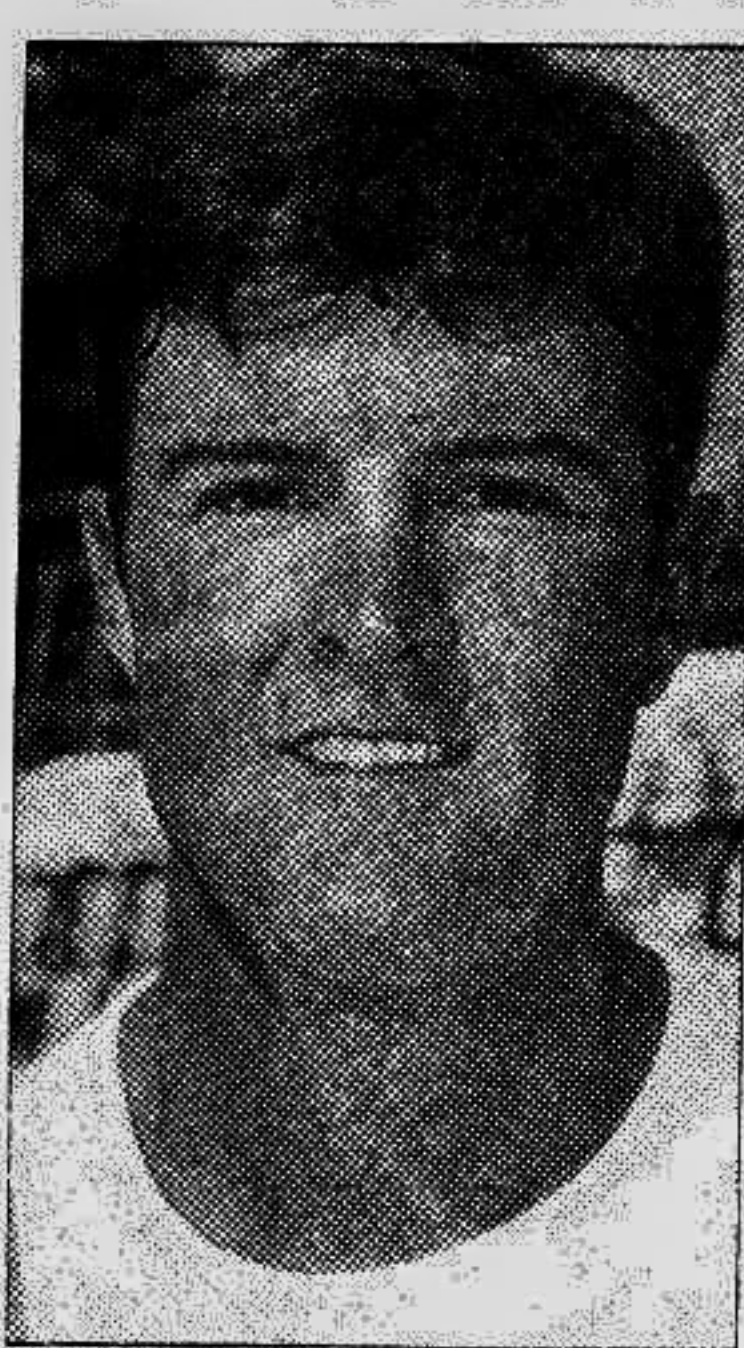
Because he is such a dominating batsman, personal success for Astle usually translates into team success for New Zealand.

A front foot player, Astle likes to attack from the first ball. And in one-day cricket he likes to open so he can take advantage of the fielding restrictions.

Originally touted as a player only suited to one-day cricket, the 28 year-old right-hander, silenced those critics in 1996 when he scored back-to-back Test centuries in the West Indies.

Because of the way he likes to play his cricket, Astle always gives the bowlers a chance and leaves his team vulnerable to a top order collapse. But he has forged a formidable record for New Zealand, scoring a record six one-day centuries and 17 half centuries in his 81 innings at a respectable average of 35.48.

It was no coincidence that in the two matches won by New



Zealand in their recent five-match series against South Africa, Astle scored 95 and a century.

"I like facing the new ball," Astle says. "It suits my style of play. In one-dayers, the field's up and I can play shots over the top."

"I love to dominate the

bowlers and take them on, let them know that wherever they bowl, I've got something to counteract. Playing a flashy cover drive gives you a buzz, but the intention's not to impress people watching. Domination's the key when you bat."

The stocky, right-hander with woodchopper arms has shown he has the ability to smash any bowler straight back over his head for six.

He uses a very heavy two pound 13 ounce bat to do the business.

Astle is a phlegmatic, cheerful and straightforward character who rarely shows emotion on the field and he doesn't like to spend too much time analysing the game. Originally, picked at first class level as a bowler, Astle's gentle medium pace is likely to be used heavily during the World Cup. His bowling is usually accurate and difficult to get away and his 54 wickets in one-day internationals testify that he is more than a mere part-timer.

He is an extremely reliable fielder both in the slips and outfield who, showed in the home season that he is capable of taking stunning catches.

Although not from a cricketing family, Astle's sister Lisa has played for the New Zealand Women's team while she and brother Daniel have played table tennis for New Zealand.

## Inter-service hockey

## Army retain title

The Inter-service hockey championship concluded at the Moulana Bhashani National Hockey Stadium yesterday, says an ISPR press release.

Bangladesh Army retained the title defeating Bangladesh Air Force 2-1 in the keenly contested final. Both teams were locked at 1-1 in the first half.

## Capello could be next England manager

MILAN, May 6: Football Association officials have sounded out former AC Milan boss Fabio Capello as a possible England national coach, the Gazzetta dello Sport claimed on Thursday, reports AFP.

Faced with the uncertainties of Kevin Keegan's commitment to England and/or Fulham, the FA could appoint the first foreign national coach in the history of English football, the paper reported.

It claimed that FA coaching chief Howard Wilkinson, who stood in for sacked England coach Glenn Hoddle in February, took a flight to Milan on April 21, the eve of Manchester United's European Cup tie with Juventus.

Instead of heading on to Turin, Wilkinson had lunch with Capello, currently jobless but under contract to AC Milan, and made him an offer.

Keegan said after England's recent draw with Hungary that he would like to stay on in the national job, but remained vague as to whether he meant full or part-time.

The Gazzetta claimed that if England lost their next two Euro 2000 qualifiers against Sweden and Bulgaria in early June and, therefore, failed to reach the finals in Holland and Belgium, Keegan could well return to Fulham and Capello be enthroned as his replacement.

Capello won four Italian league titles and the 1994 European Cup in five years as coach of Milan, before leaving in 1996 to take Real Madrid to championship triumph in Spain.

He made an unsuccessful return to Milan in 1997-98 and was replaced last summer by Alberto Zaccheroni, who has since taken them to second place in the Serie A, just one point behind leaders Lazio.

Local newspapers reported on Thursday that former Pakistan Test batsman Mushtaq Mohammad, who has been coach twice in the last four years, would replace Miandad, but Mahmood declined to comment on possible choices.

Mushtaq, tipped to replace Gordon Greenidge as Bangladesh coach after the World Cup, however, has joined the ICC champions in London at the capacity of bowling assistant to Greenidge.

Talk of a new head coach

## Agnelli blasts Del Piero

TURIN, Italy, May 6: Juventus' owner Giovanni Agnelli on Thursday slammed star striker Alessandro Del Piero as "stingy" in his negotiations over a new contract with the club, reports AFP.

The talks have turned into a year-long soap opera in Italian football. Del Piero's season ended in injury last November, but a deal estimated at 22 million dollars has stalled with sides reluctant to make concessions.

Agnelli, whose family controls the Fiat car empire and bankroll the club, was asked about Del Piero's state of health.

"I think he's in pretty good shape," said the billionaire. "In fact, he's so well that he's become stingy."

Asked about wage demands at the Italian champions, he said: "I think it's not just a problem for Juventus."

"But let's just say when it comes to making concessions, there's a certain lack of elasticity among the current management of the club."

Del Piero didn't respond to the insult. But his agent Claudio Pasqualin tried to defuse the situation, claiming it was just Agnelli's sense of humour at work.

"The quips (of Agnelli) are always something precious, and it's gratifying to be the object of one of them," he said.

The club has stalled in recent months partly because of the extent of Del Piero's knee ligament injuries, which required surgery in the United States, and partly because of the nature of the deal.

Juventus are trying to introduce all-encompassing contracts whereby a player's private sponsors - who in Del Piero's case are worth far more than his salary - are handled by the club.

However, the negotiations have now turned into a race against time for Juventus officials, as Del Piero's contract has little more than a year to run. If no agreement is reached by June next year, the club will not earn a cent from the departure of a player worth around 30 million dollars.



Ace South African paceman Allan Donald (R) and wicketkeeper Mark Boucher sharing a light moment during practice at Hove yesterday.

# Aiming at Mushtaq?



KARACHI, May 6 (Reuters/Internet): Pakistan's troubled off-field build-up to the World Cup took another twist on Thursday when the country's cricket chief said a new head coach could be appointed within the next 24 hours.

He would replace Javed Miandad, who stunningly resigned two weeks ago, just days before the squad left for England where the World Cup starts on May 14.

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Khalid Mahmood told from Lahore, "There is no decision yet, but we are considering this appointment, not particularly with reference to any name."

Asked when the appointment would be made, Mahmood said: "In the next 24 hours, I suppose."

Local newspapers reported on Thursday that former Pakistan Test batsman Mushtaq Mohammad, who has been coach twice in the last four years, would replace Miandad, but Mahmood declined to comment on possible choices.

Mushtaq, tipped to replace Gordon Greenidge as Bangladesh coach after the World Cup, however, has joined the ICC champions in London at the capacity of bowling assistant to Greenidge.

Talk of a new head coach

comes less than a week after the PCB executive council accepted Miandad's resignation and said team captain Wasim Akram had been given sweeping powers on and off the field for the World Cup.



MUSHTAQ MUHAMMAD

Miandad initially said he resigned due to "pressing family commitments", but last Sunday he confirmed media reports of disputes between him and several senior players.

Newspapers said Miandad accused the players of deliberately performing below par in a match against England in the recent Sharjah one-day tournament which Pakistan lost by 62 runs.

Mahmood has declined to

comment on the disputes, saying they were an internal matter, but he did say on Thursday that Akram was being consulted on the new coach.

"We certainly consult the team management -- the team manager, the captain and others," he said.

Mahmood said he thought team morale was good despite the recent distractions, Pakistan having won the three-team Sharjah competition against England and India.

In addition to accepting Miandad's resignation, the executive board also said that England-born Richard Pybus would act as assistant coach to Akram, and that the controversial Sarfaraz Nawaz had been dropped as bowling coach.

Mahmood said any fresh appointment would be as head coach, but did not say how that would change the roles of others.

Mushtaq, the first Pakistani to score 25,000 runs in first-class cricket, has twice coached the national team. He was fired after three months in 1995 following a home defeat to Sri Lanka. Reappointed in 1996, he quit after 13 months over a pay dispute.

Sarfaraz, one of his country's leading pace bowlers in the 1970s, has in the past made allegations of match-fixing in Pakistani cricket.

Pakistan open their World Cup challenge against West Indies at Bristol on May 16.

## TRACK RECORD

LONDON, May 6 (AFP): New Zealand's World Cup track record: 1975-1996: Played 85, won 19, and lost 16. Semifinalists: 1975, 1979, 1992. Eliminated before semifinals: 1983, 1987, 1996.

**1975**  
Played 4, won 2, lost 2  
**Group matches**  
Birmingham, June 7 - New Zealand bt East Africa by 181 runs, New Zealand 309-5 (Turner 171 not, Parker 66), East Africa 128-8 (Hadlee 3-21, Howarth 3-29)  
Nottingham, June 11 - England bt New Zealand by 80 runs, England 266-6 (Fletcher 131), New Zealand 186 (Morrison 55, Greig 4-10)  
Manchester, June 15 - New Zealand bt India by 4 wks, India 230 (Abid Ali 70, McKechnie 3-49), New Zealand 233-6 (Turner 114 not) Semifinal  
Oval, London, June 18: West Indies bt New Zealand by 5 wks, New Zealand 158 (Howarth 51, Julien 4-27, Holder 3-30), West Indies 159-5 (Greenidge 55, Kallicharan 72, Collinge 3-28)

**1979**  
Played 4, won 2, lost 2  
**Group matches**  
Nottingham, June 9 - New Zealand bt Sri Lanka by 9 wks, Sri Lanka 189 (Tennekoon 59, McKechnie 3-25), New Zealand 190-1, (Turner 83 not, Howarth 63 not)  
Leeds, June 13 - New Zealand bt India by 8 wks, India 182 (Gavaskar 55, Cairns 3-36, McKechnie 3-24), New Zealand 183-2 (Edgar 84 not)  
Nottingham, June 16 - West Indies bt New Zealand by 32 runs, West Indies 244-7 (Greenidge 65, Lloyd 73 not), New Zealand 212-9 (Roberts 3-43)

**Semifinal**  
Manchester, June 20 - England bt New Zealand by 9 runs, England 221-8 (Brewerley 53, Gooch 71), New Zealand 212-9 (Wright 69, Hendrick 3-55)

**1983**  
Played 6, won 3, lost 3  
**Group matches**  
Oval, London, June 9 - England bt New Zealand by 106 runs, England 322-6 (Lamb 102), New Zealand 216 (Crowe 97)  
Birmingham, June 11, 12 - New Zealand bt Pakistan by 52 runs, New Zealand 238-9 (Rashid Khan 3-47, Abdul Qadir 4-21), Pakistan 186 (Hadlee 3-20, Coney 3-28)  
Bristol, June 13 - New Zealand bt Sri Lanka by 5 wks, New Zealand 206 (Madugalle 60, Hadlee 5-25), New Zealand 209-5 (Turner 50, Howarth 76)  
Birmingham, June 15 - New Zealand bt England by 2 wks, England 234 (Fowler 69, Gower 92 not, Hadlee 3-32, Cairns 3-44), New Zealand 238-8 (Howarth 60, Coney 66 not, Willis 4-42)  
Derby, June 18 - Sri Lanka bt New Zealand by 3 wks, New Zealand 181 (de Mel 5-32), Sri Lanka 184-7 (Kuruppu 62, Dias 64 not)  
Nottingham, June 20 - Pakistan bt New Zealand by 11 runs, Pakistan 261-3 (Zaheer Abbas 103 not, Imran Khan 79 not), New Zealand 250 (Coney 51, Mudassar Nazar 3-43)

**1987**  
Played 6, won 2, lost 4  
**Group matches**  
Hyderabad, India, 10 October - New Zealand bt Zimbabwe by 3 runs, New Zealand 242-7 (Snedden 64, Crowe 72), Zimbabwe 239 (Houghton 142, Butchart 54)  
Bangalore, India, October 14 - India bt New Zealand by 16 runs, India 252-7 (Siddhu 75, Kapil Dev 72 not, Patel 3-36), New Zealand 236-8 (Rutherford 75, Jones 64)  
Indore, India, October 18, 19 - Australia bt New Zealand by 3 runs, Australia 199-4 (30 overs) (Boon 87, Jones 52), New Zealand 196-9 (Crowe 58)  
Calcutta, October 23 - New Zealand bt Zimbabwe by 4 wks, Zimbabwe 227-5 (Arnott 51, Houghton 50, Pycroft 52), New Zealand 228-6 (Crowe 58, Crowe 88 not)  
Chandigarh, India, October 27 - Australia bt New Zealand by 17 runs, Australia 251-8 (Marsh 126 not, Jones 56), New Zealand 234

(Wright 61)  
Nagpur, India, October 31 - India bt New Zealand by 9 wks, New Zealand 221-9 (Sharma 3-51), India 224-1 (Srikkanth 75, Gavaskar 103 not)

**1992**  
Played 9, won 7, lost 2  
**Preliminary round**  
Auckland, February 22 - New Zealand bt Australia by 37 runs, New Zealand 248-6 (Crowe 100 not, Rutherford 57), Australia 211 (Boon 100)  
Hamilton, February 25 - New Zealand bt Sri Lanka by 6 wks, Sri Lanka 206-9 (Mahanama 80, de Silva 31, Watson 3-37, Harris 3-43), New Zealand 210-4 (Wright 57, Rutherford 65 not)  
Auckland, February 29 - New Zealand bt South Africa by 7 wks, South Africa 190-7 (Kirsten 90), New Zealand 191-3 (Greatbatch 68, Latham 60)  
Napier, New Zealand, March 3 - New Zealand bt Zimbabwe by 48 runs, New Zealand 162-3 (off 20.5 overs, Crowe 74 not, Jones 57) Zimbabwe 105-7 (after set 153 off 18 overs, Harris 3-15, Larsen 3-16)  
Auckland, March 8 - New Zealand bt West Indies by 5 wks, West Indies 203-7 (Lara 52), New Zealand 206-5 (Greatbatch 63, Crowe 81 not)  
Dunedin, New Zealand, March 12 - New Zealand bt India by 4 wks, India 230-6 (Azharuddin 55, Tendulkar 84), New Zealand 231-6 (Greatbatch 73, Jones 67 not, Prabhakar 46-3)  
Wellington, March 15 - New Zealand bt England by 7 wks, England 200-8 (Hick 56), New Zealand 201-3 (Jones 78, Crowe 73 not)  
Christchurch, March 18 - Pakistan bt New Zealand by 7 wks, New Zealand 166 (Wasim Akram 4-32), Pakistan 167-3 (Rameez Raja 119 not, Javed Miandad 30, Morrison 3-42)

**Semifinal**  
Auckland, March 21 - Pakistan bt New Zealand by 4 wks, New Zealand 262-7 (Rutherford 50, Crowe 91), Pakistan 264-6 (Izamamul Haq 60, Miandad 57 not)

**1996**  
Played 6, won 3, lost 3  
**Group matches**  
Ahmedabad, India, February 14 - New Zealand bt England by 11 runs, New Zealand 239-6 (Astle 101), England 228-9 (Hick 85, Nash 3-27)  
Bardonia, India, February 17 - New Zealand bt Holland by 119 runs, New Zealand 307-8 (Spearman 68, Fleming 66, Cairns 52, Parore 55, Lubbers 3-48), Holland 188-7 (Harris 3-24)  
Faisalabad, Pakistan, February 20: South Africa bt New Zealand by 5 wks, New Zealand 177 (Donald 3-34), South Africa 178-5 (Cronje 78)  
Faisalabad, Pakistan, Feb 27 - New Zealand bt United Arab Emirates by 109 runs, New Zealand 276-8 (Spearman 72, Twose 92, Saeed 3-45), United Arab Emirates 167-9 (Thomson 3-20)  
Lahore, March 6 - Pakistan bt New Zealand by 46 runs, Pakistan 281-5 (Aamir Sohail 50, Saeed Anwar 62, Salim Malik 55 not), New Zealand 235

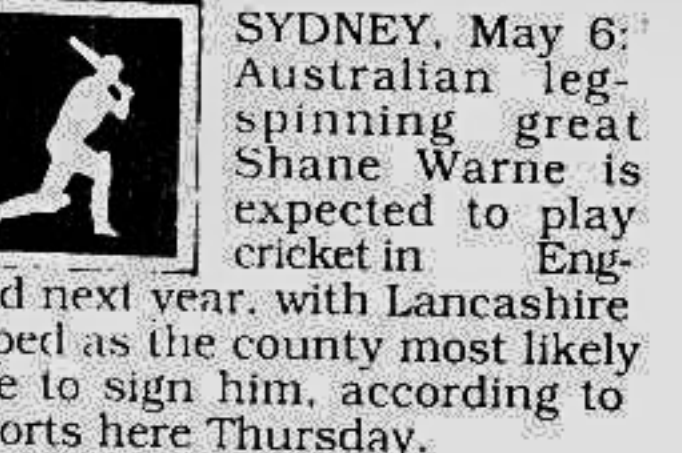
**Quarterfinals**  
Madras, March 11 - Australia bt New Zealand by 6 wks, New Zealand 286-9 (Germar 89, Harris 130), Australia 289-4 (M. Waugh 110, S. Waugh 59 not)

## AGAINST OTHERS

v Australia: Played 4, won 1 (1992), lost 3 (1987 x2, 1996)  
v England: Played 6, won 3 (1983, 1992, 1996), lost 3 (1975, 1979, 1983)  
v India: Played 5, won 3 (1975, 1979, 1992), lost 2 (1987 x2)  
v Pakistan: Played 5, won 1 (1983), lost 4 (1983, 1992 x2, 1996)  
v Sri Lanka: Played 2, won 1 (1992), lost 1 (1996)  
v South Africa: Played 4, won 3 (1979, 1983, 1992), lost 1 (1983)  
v West Indies: Played 3, won 1 (1992), lost 2 (1975, 1979)  
v Zimbabwe: Played 3, won 3 (1987 x2, 1996)

Others: v East Africa: Played 1, won 1 (1975). v Holland: Played 1, won 1 (1996). v UAE: Played 1, won 1 (1996)

# Lancs look to land Warne



SYDNEY, May 6: Australian leg-spinning great Shane Warne is expected to play cricket in England next year, with Lancashire tipped as the county most likely to sign him, according to reports here Thursday.

Warne has made attempts to play in England before and was twice refused permission by the Australian Cricket Board because of Australia's demanding international schedule.

But Warne said in London Wednesday he expected to overcome any Australian objections in time for the county championship next year.

"It's different this time, I'm optimistic they'll let me come," Warne told Australian Associated Press.

"I've already spoken to a couple of counties and I'm pretty certain that I'll be spending next summer here."

"We have a six-month break from international duty after we finish our tour of New Zealand in March."

"I won't be needed by the national team again until October so this is a great chance to fulfil a dream I've had for a long time of playing a season in England."

Warne spent a year in England as a teenager 10 years ago, playing for a Bristol club.

Somerset, Hampshire, Gloucester and Sussex are likely to bid for his services but press reports suggested Lancashire was favoured to land Warne a 150,000 pound contract.

But Warne said he would probably look at teams who were under-achieving, and hoped to be captain.

He would also help the En-

glish develop a champion spinner of their own, with plans to coach while he was employed here.

"I can breathe a bit of the Australian mentality into these young English players then I think it's got to help," he said.

Two-thirds of England's county teams have Australians as overseas players and the World Cup will be an ideal opportunity for others to show off their wares -- and land lucrative contracts for the following summer.

Glenn McGrath was expected to land a county berth, while Adam Dale and Adam Gilchrist would also rank among the top targets.

**Meanwhile, Warne will keep 200,000 Australian dollars (128,000 US) paid by a sponsor for staying off the cigarettes despite being caught smoking three days before the bet was due to end.**

Australia's spin king, previously a 40-a-day man, told reporters he had won his battle to kick the habit and banked the cash, but pictures published here Thursday show him puffing away in a Barbados bar days before the stunt concluded.

Warne claimed the cigarette on April 25 was "a mere blip" in an otherwise smoke-free four-month deal with Nicorette chewing gum manufacturer Upjohn and Pharmacia to pack it in.

"It had been quite a stressful 10-week period and unfortunately I had a night out with the lads, it was quite late at night and I gave into the temptation once," he was quoted as saying in The Australian, which printed the picture.

He said he had phoned Nicorette to confess immedi-

## ROK's plan

SEOUL, May 6: The South Korean government plans to offer loans to cities hosting the 2002 finals to make sure the event goes ahead with problems, officials said, reports AFP.

Finance and Economy Ministry said the government has set aside about 150 billion won (125.4 million dollars) to help host cities facing economic problems.

South Korea, co-hosts of the 2002 World Cup finals with Japan, is planning to build 10 stadiums despite the financial crisis that hit the country in 1997, forcing it to go to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a 57-billion-dollar bailout.



England coach David Lloyd (L) and paceman Alan Mullally exchanging something during a practice session at St Lawrence Ground in Canterbury, Kent yesterday.

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## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

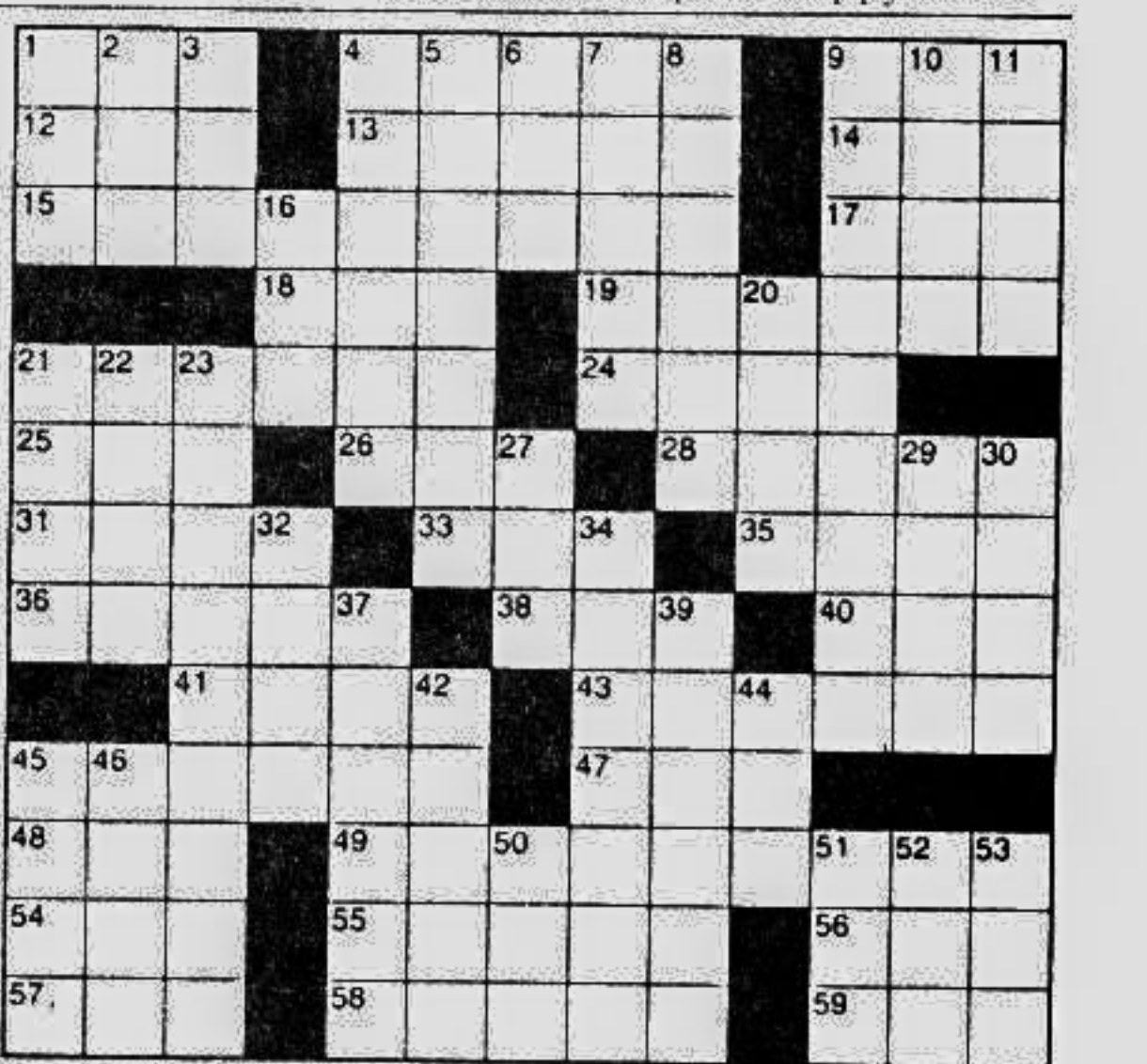
**ACROSS**  
1 Past  
4 Gradually faster, in mus.  
9 Solidified  
12 Yield  
13 Ladd classic  
14 Mao --  
15 Hair woe  
17 "Norma" --  
18 Dover is its cap.  
19 Densest of the elements  
21 Runs the meeting  
24 Feble  
25 Wet wiggler  
28 Fresh member  
31 Flavor enhancer  
33 Melody  
35 Tickle Me Elmo, e.g.  
36 Cubic meter  
38 Comprehend  
40 Arnesian appellation  
41 Puppy's outcry

**43** Parking lot  
**45** Mamie's successor  
**47** New Haven collegian  
**48** -- pro noble  
**49** Trunk item  
**54** Little louse  
**55** Suggests  
**56** Complete  
**57** Petrol  
**58** Plant that tastes like licorice  
**59** Hearty laugh  
**DOWN**  
2 Bush  
3 Pussy-cat's partner  
4 Aft  
5 Noted  
6 Has the skills  
7 Be  
8 Diminish  
9 Ump's call  
10 Jacob's brother  
11 Abound  
16 -- Amin  
20 One of

**21** Luck o' the Irish  
**22** Pacino/De Niro movie  
**23** Strays, maybe  
**27** Peruke  
**28** Coagulate  
**30** Desire Under the --  
**32** Arduous journey  
**34** Goes back (to)  
**37** I Kings prophet  
**39** Thy Neighbor's Wife  
**42** Charlemagne's father  
**44** Committed arson  
**45** Writer  
**46** "Tosca" tune  
**50** Blackbird  
**51** Little lambs' fodder  
**52** Carnival setting  
**53** "A mouse!"

**Solution time: 27 min.**

**Yesterday's answer**



**CRYPTOQUIP**  
BJSY OUSM-GCA UCTSUPSY  
MZYS WOI IJSL BZTT  
GSAICZYTL WAMSA TSPWY  
UWTS  
Saturday's Cryptokuip: ELATED HERB GARDENER'S BOAST: "I'VE BEEN HAVING THE THYME OF MY LIFE!"  
Today's Cryptokuip clue: T equals L  
The Cryptokuip 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.