### Rajshahi sports

From Our Correspondent RAJSHAHI, Jan 11: Mahishalbari Bhutu Eleven defeated Padma Kishore Sangha by 72 runs in the Muktijoddha Shaheed Fazlul Huque Smriti Gold Cup Cricket tournament today ai Godagari Women's Degree College Playground.

Mahishalbari won the toss and batted first. They collected 191 runs for eight wickets in the stipulated 15 overs.

In reply. Padma were shot out for 119 runs in 10.4 overs.

## Volleyball

Saranghpur Club defeated Gosai Das Club 87-79 in the Godagari Volleyball tournament played today at Godagari Degree College playground

ICC under-17

## Saudis, Thais to give it a miss

Sports Reporter Saudi Arabia and Thalland have pulled out of the second ICC under-17 Asian Cricket Championship, to be held in Bangladesh from February 15.

Bangladesh Cricket Board joint-secretary and event manager of the championship Mahmud Ul Haq Manu revealed this yesterday.

The tournament will now be held with ten teams--India. Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal. Malaysia, UAE, Kuwait, Oman. Singapore and hosts Bangladesh-- will now take part in the championship which will end on February 25. The fixture will be disclosed with in next couple Manu also informed that the

Asian Cricket Council has appointed Singapore Cricket Association official Anil Kalavar as the tournament director.

### Ngam may miss Windies tour

JOHANNESBURG, Jan 11 (Internet report): Mfuneko Ngam could miss South Africa's tour to the West Indies after tests revealed the fiery paceman has suffered a stress fracture. his third in three years.

The 21-year-old from Alice in the Eastern Cape sustained the injury on his right femur, to go with stress fractures to his spine and foot.

According to South African team physiotherapist Craig Smith. Ngam could be out of action for anything from six weeks to three months, the worst-case scenario ruling him out of the West Indies series which starts in March.

Smith hypothesised that Ngam might be prone to stress fractures due to a metabolic problem and that the bowler's bones could be weak, either due to genetic factors or a deficiency of minerals and vitamins.

"We are still deciding what the next step for Mfuneko will be." Smith told on Thursday. "But the plan is for him to see the UCB's orthopaedic spe-

cialist in Johannesburg some time next week." While the loss of Ngam is a

major blow to South Africa. Smith said that Roger Telemachus - who was ruled out of Tuesday's ODI against Sri Lanka with a sore neck, was 90 per cent fit. He bowled without any hindrance on Wednesday and is sure to return to action at Newlands on Thurs-

### Unchanged

From page 13 gamootoo (three) to plunge West Indies to 139 for seven. Symonds upstaged legspinning champion Shane Warne - in his return match by taking 4-35 to complete a

fine all-round performance. Warne, who had been sidelined for two months with a broken finger, conceded 21 runs in his first four overs but bowled better in his second spell, although remaining wickelless.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the opening Carlton tri-nation limited-overs match between Australia and the West Indies at the Melbourne Cricket Ground Thurs-

AUSTRALIA M Waugh c Hinds b Williams Gilchrist c McLean b Cuffy Ponting c Powell b Cuffy Bevan e Lara b Williams S Waugh c Nagamootoo b Samuels Martyn run out Symonds not out Extras: (lb-6, w-4) Total: (For 6 wkts in 50 overs) 267 Fall of wickets: 1-7, 2-118, 3-144. 4-174. 5-193. 6-267 Bowler O M R W Cuffy 45 McLean 1 54 Williams 39 Nagamootoo 10 0 50 Adams 0 19 0 54 Samuels 10 WEST INDIES Campbell c Bevan b Bracken Hinds c Ponting b McGrath Lara c Gilchrist b Harvey Samuels c and b Symonds Powell c S Waugh b Symonds Jacobs c and b Symonds Nagamootoo lbw Symonds Adams not out Williams not out Extras: (lb-9, w-4) Total: (For 7 wkts in 50 overs) 193 Fall of wickets: 1-3, 2-9, 3-

Ponting.

57, 4-84, 5-132, 6-139, 7-139 successive games. Bowler M was first into the semi-finals McGrath when third seeded American Bracken compatriot Kristina Brandi had Harvey to retire with a left thigh strain Martyn 1 19 after only four games. Warne 10 1 35 Symonds Result: Australia won by 74 runs. Man-of-the-match: Ricky

## AFP FOOTBALL BRIEFS

Jan 11(AFP): World football briefs on Thursday:

### SEAMAN ON COMEBACK TRAIN

LONDON: England goalkeeper David Seaman starts his comeback from injury in Arsenal's reserves against Wimbledon on Wednesday night, re-

ports AFP The . 7-vear-old, anxious to impress new England coach Sven-Goran Eriksson, has been out of action since October with shoulder and ankle injuries.

He has missed 17 games in all but if he comes through tonight's match at Sutton United's Gander Green Lane ground. Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger will consider picking him for Saturday's London derby against Chelsea at

Highbury. And Seaman, who is determined to continue his international career, could also be in line for Eriksson's first squad for the friendly against Spain at Villa Park on February 28.

Seaman is also likely to decide next month whether to accept a new one-year contract to end his playing days at Highbury next season.

#### FERGUSON WARNS PLAYERS' AGENTS

Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson on Wednesday warned agents that the Premiership champions would not be held to ransom in negotiations over new con-

new deals for the club's best players and Ferguson has blasted agents who are demanding massive wage increases for their clients, claiming the whole process has become "a huge ego trip for

ports that David Beckham's of their top players. advisers want a staggering 100.000-pound-a-week (149,000 dollar) salary for the England star.

He insists the agents are acting in their own interests rather than those of their players so they can demand more in their next set of negotiations.

Ferguson said: "All agents are is a voice for the player. As a club we know what we are prepared to give a player before we get into discussions.

"Agents asking for such and such a figure is rubbish and it has all just become a huge ego trip for agents. "All the figures about what

players are wanting is all com-

ing from agents. It is more important for them to get huge salaries for their players than it is for the players themselves. "Agents demand this kind of money and then they can go around to their other clients

saying I got this and that for so-

and-so.

### GIGGS LOOKING FOR NEW MU DEAL

LONDON: Ryan Giggs is confident he can agree a new with Manchester September.

United have started talks on United which will keep him at Old Trailord into his 30s. Welshman Giggs, who has

18 months left on his current deal, feels he could put pen to paper on a new agreement in

United are talking to the winger as part of their on-going Ferguson was reacting to re- plan to agree new deals with all

> "We're in talks at the moment," said Giggs, quoted in Wedneday's Manchester Even-

'My agent has met with the club, and we're waiting for them to come back to us now. "As far as I'm concerned, 1

think it's all looking good. "I have never had any problems in the past with contracts and I don't foresee any problems this time.

"I don't want to go and I don't think the club want me to, so I can only see it going

"I wouldn't be surprised if it went through in the summer. but there's no hurry.

"United will certainly want to get it sorted before next season starts because I would only have a year left after this one. They wouldn't want to get into the Roy Keane scenario again where he could have talked to foreign clubs after Christmas and there was all that speculation about his future."

Giggs, 27, has just clocked up 10 years in United's first team - and his representatives are also organising a testimonial season next term with his benefit match likely to be in

## Australian Open

# Gustavo, Martina top guns



here, reports AFP.

MELBOURNE. Jan 11: Brazilian Gustavo Kuerten

and Martina Hingis of Switzerland were Thursday announced as the top seeds for the men's and women's singles at next week's Australian Open

Defending champion Andre Agassi was given his world ranking of six as his seeding for the year's first grand slam tournament, while women's champion Lindsay Davenport

was named second seed. Kuerten becomes the second South American to obtain top seeding at a grand slam since 1981 when Argentine's Guillermo Vilas was No.1 seed at the Australian Open.

Knerten only sealed the

match of last year's Masters Cup in Lisbon when he beat

Two-time winner and world No.3 Pete Sampras is seeded three and 1999 winner and last year's finalist Yevgeny Kafelnikov comes in at five.

It is the third time in five visits that Hingis has been the top seed, while reigning Wimbledon, US Open champion and Sydney Olympic gold medallist Venus Williams is number three. Four-time winner Monica Seles, who missed last year's tournament due to injury, is fourth seed

### SEEDINGS

1. Gustavo Kuerten (Bra). 2. Marat Safin (Rus), 3. Pete 6ampras (USA). 4. Magnus Norman (Swel, 5. Yevgeny Kafelnikov world top ranking in the final (Rus). 6. Andre Agassi (USA). 7.

Lleyton Hewitt (Aus), 8. Tim Henman (Gbr), 9. Juan Carlos Ferrero (Spa), 10. Wayne Ferreira (Rsa). 11. Franco Squillari (Arg). 12. Patrick Rafter (Aus), 13. Cedric Pioline (Fra), 14. Dominik Hrbaty (Svk). 15. Arnaud Clement (Fra), 16. Sebastien Grosjean (Fra). Women

1. Martina Hingis (Swi), 2 Lindsay Davenport (USA), 3

Venus Williams (USA), Monica Seles (USA), 5. Conchita Martinez (Spa). 6. Serena Williams (USA). 7. Mary Pierce (Fra). 8. Anna Kournikova (Rus), 9. Elena Dementieva (Rus), 10. Amanda Coetzer (Rsa), 11. Chanda Rubin (USA). 12. Jennifer Capriati (USA). 13. Amelie Mauresmo (Fra). 14. Sandrine Testud (Fra), 15. Kim Clijsters (Bel), 16. Amy Frazier

# Agassi enters final

back from the match points down, to reach the final of the Monyong Tennis Classic here

Hursday, reports AFP. The attention winner of all the four grand slams and six overall looked gone when he trailed Frenchman Nicolas Escude 3-6, 3-5, 0-40 and needing to hold his serve to force Escude to close the match out

in fierce heat. Not only did Agassi hold on. but he turned the tide and eventually wore down Escude for a gritty 3-6. 7-5, 6-1 victory and a place in Saturday's final against either Yevgeny Kafelnikov or Juan Carlos Ferrero. who play their semi-final Fri-

It was encouraging for the defending Australian Open the start of the year's first grand slam tournament.

"He got the break and he played well for two sets and then when I got back into the match I started making less mistakes." Agassi said.

"When I was serving 3-5. 0-40 I was disgusted with myself

### Frazier fumbles

HOBART, Jan 11: Italian Rita Grande upset top seed Amy Frazier in the quarterlinals of the Tasmanian international women's tennis tournament here Thursday, reports AFP.

Grande, ranked 77th to Frazier's 20th, sliced and top spun her way to a 6-4, 6-3 victory. The Italian, a finalist in Hobart two years ago who's coming back from a hip operation, never allowed her harder-

hitting American opponent to find her rhythm. In the semis. Grande will meet sixth-seeded Romanian Ruxandra Dragomir, who beat number four Anne-Gaelle Sidot of France 6-1 5-7 6-3 in a

fluctuating match. The left-handed Sidot, after being outplayed in the first. fought her way back with powerful ground shots and appeared heading for victory when leading 3-1 in the decider.

But Dragomir proved too steady and with Sidot becoming increasingly erratic, won five Unseeded Jennifer Hopkins

Hopkins will meet Zimbabwe's fifth seed Cara Black, who came from behind to beat second-seeded Russian Elena Likhovtseva. 1-6. 6-4, 6-4 in the night match.

that I was about to lose my Slam champion lost to Austra- proposal of appointing neutral Jan 11: Andre serve because von always want lian Patrick Rafter. 6-4. 7-5 fought to make somebody have to close following on from his defeat to

I hit a few good serves and your chances and I hit a few said Sampras. good returns."

harder this time to retain his the Australian Open. grand slam title having come off season on an upswing.

specifically. I feel good and little bit." he said. strong and physically fit, but I unatches will be more important I think I'm getting there. to me than they were last year."

as many days Thursday. This time the 13-time Grand and get ready.

Ferrero on Wednesday.

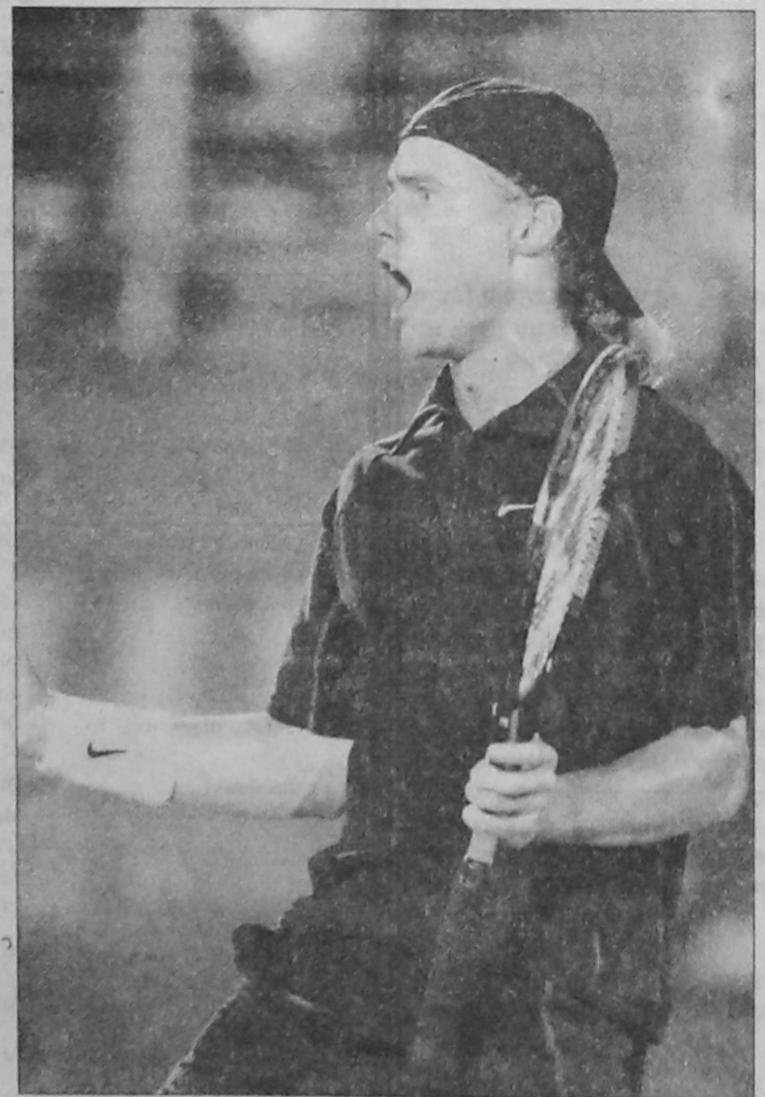
"I thought I hit the ball a litmanaged to hold -- once you the bit better, there is obviously are down a few match points a lot of room for improvement and courre changing sides and over the next three or four days still in it vou're going to take but I'm a bit more pleased."

Sampras was looking forward to playing another match Agassi, who beat Kafelnikov on Friday on the Rebound Ace in last year's Australian final. hardcourt and fine-tuning over believes he will have to work the weekend in readiness for "By playing more games, an-

a generally disappointing 2000 other tough match tomorrow, you get into a certain rhythm Im very critical on myself and when you come down here about how I'm hitting the ball you have to adjust your shots a

"As long as I'm hitting the think this year a couple of early ball well and feeling well, which

"When you win matches you For great rival. Pete Sampras build confidence but if I can was happy with his form de- play better today than yesterchampion just three days before spite losing his second match in day. I can build on it and work on a few things this weekend



Lleyton Hewitt of Australia exults after defeating Fabrice Santoro of France in Sydney International yesterday. - AFP photo

Nat'l sub-jr chess

### Sagar stays ahead

Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar of Anirban Chess School was maintaining a solo lead after the seventh round matches in the 21 National Sub-Junior Championship held at the NSC chess room vesterday, reports

Sagar secured full points beating his teammate Nagir Salcheen in the day's round. Naveem Arctin Ratul and Moksedul Monir followed the leader with six points while

Nagir Saleheen. Abul Kashem Md Sadi and Maidul Islam have five points each. Ratul beat Jehri, Monir beat Sadi. Montruzzaman beat Alam Mia. Maidul beat Obaidul and

Shamsuddoha beat Sabber. The eighth and final round matches will begin today at 3 pm at the same venue

Meanwhile, the selection phase of the 22" National Women's Championship will begin on January 15 at 3:00 pm instead of January 14. The meet is open to all and

requires no entry fee. Interested players have been requested to submit their names by January 14 at the Bangladesh Chess Federation

The Federation will provide free food and accommodation to the participants coming from outside Dhaka.

### M'singh cricket

MYMENSINGH. Jan 11: Mohammedan Sporting Club defeated Renaissance Club by 37 runs in the First Division cricket league at the local Circuit liouse ground today, reports UNB. Mohammedan batted first

and scored 200 runs in the stipulated 40 overs. In reply. Renaissance were all out for 163 in 37.2 overs.

#### BRIEF SCORES Mohammedan SC: 200 (40) overs). Abir 50. Rabbi 31. Dulal

30. Supta 15. Kamrul 3 34. Shihan 2/29, Rajn 2/51 Renaissance: 163 (37.2 overs). Shihan 31, Khokon. 21.

Arafat 18 n.o., Nasir 4/25, Mou 2/25. Supta 2/27. Swapan Meanwhile.

Mymensingh and Faridpur regions reached the final of CAG Cup divisional volleyball competition here today. In today's matches. Faridpur

beat Tangail 2-0 and Mymensingh 2-1 while Mymensingh beat Tangail 2-0 to confirm their final berth. Mymensingh will face Farid-

pur in the final at 10 am tomor-

row (Friday) at the Zilla School

### hostel ground. ICC turns down Pak proposal

(ICC) has rejected Pakistan's umpires in a Test match, said Li Gen Taugeer Zia, chairman of Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) while talking to newsmen at the Gaddafi Stadium here on Wednesday, reports PPL

He said that Pakistan would raise the same issue in the forthcoming ICC meeting to be held on February 12 at (Australia). Melbourne "Pakistan will insist for both the umpires to be neutral, if not accepted we will be insisting to take more and more advantages of the third umpire." he added.

### Don recovering from pneumonia

SYDNEY, Jan 11 (Internet reportl: Reclusive Australian great Sir Donald Bradman is resting at his Adelaide home after recovering from a bout of pneumonia which forced him into hospital before Christmas. Australian media had speculated this week about the health of the 92-year-old Bradman, hailed by Prime Minister John Howard as the greatest

in hospital with pneumonia. Bradman's son John said in a statement issued from southern Adelaide on Thursday.

turn home and is now there resting under medical supervi

Indian cricketers, including exskipper Kapil Dev, have huge amounts of undeclared income and could face stiff penal action, the Indian Express daily said Thursday, reports AFP. The daily, quoting income

had been sent notices about two weeks ago to declare their earnings over the past 10 years. It said cricket legend Kapil Dev. whose named cropped up in a match-fixing probe, had more than 25 million rupees (532,000 dollars) in undeclared earnings. Kapil was cleared in an offi-

cial probe last month.

Players Ajay Sharma, Ajay Jadeja and Manoj Prabhakar. who were declared guilty by federal investigators of consorting with bookies, were also found to have concealed their incomes. Jadeja had hidden earnings of 23 million rupees. Prabhakar

undeclared money was put at around seven million rupees. Another player. Nikhil Chopra, had hidden wealth to the tune of five million rupees.

# Hingis withstands Williams

at my best," she said.

problems you have.

mered

"I teel very good about it. For



SYDNEY, Jan 11: , a 6-4, 7-5 winner. Martina Hingis titanic scrap with

linernational reports AFP. The clash was a replay of the memorable match in the semifinals of the 1999 US Open which Williams won and Hingis made clear from the outset she wanted revenge. Victory by the Swiss star

brought an abrupt halt to Serena's ambitions plan to take



World No 1 Martina Hingis of Switzerland jubilates after beating American Serena Williams in the quarterfinal of the Sydney International yesterday. - AFP photo the game to a new level "like

the moment was treasured. The holder of five-time Grand Slams now leads their head-to-heads 5-4 after fighting

back from 3-0 down in a see-

Hingis's triumph though Martina Navratilova did" and didn't come cheaply. After the match she pulled out of the doubles complaining of a severe blister on the right big toe.

Williams also had an injury scare, citing a twinge in the left sawing second set to walk away ankle after running for a back-

The last time I did that I the confidence it's great that I didn't feel it until two days later won today even when I wasn't so I'm keeping my fingers crossed," she said, adding that "The more you play them she still felt rusty in only her

(the Williams' sisters) the less third game of the year. intimidated you get and the less "This is the third match since October so I'm doing

"Every win against them is a pretty good considering." One area causing trouble good one to have in your though is the number of un-She now plays fourth seeded forced errors that crept into her Conchita Martinez in the semigame (54 to Hingis' 13). Wilfinals after the Spainard hamliams said she would work on American Corina fixing the problem in the days

before the Australian Open. "I'm getting my rhythm back. I felt it a little in this game. It's like I have it. I'm just not able to produce it right now. Next week I should do a lot better."

In the other quarterfinals. musclewoman Mauresmo limped past Monica Seles to set up a last four contest with Lindsay Davenport -a repeat of last year's final which Mauresmo won. But the Frenchwoman's fit-

ness is also under a cloud after

a recurrence of the back strain which kept her out of tennis for lengthy periods last year. She received treatment at 3-I in the second set but gritted

her teeth for a 6-4, 7-6 (7/5) win, her first over the third seed. It also ended Seles unbeaten

run in Sydney where she took the title in her only other appearance in 1996. "Hopefully it's just a muscle,

you know, really tight, and its gonna get better." Mauresmo said. "I'm going to get treatment on it. The thing is I don't feel it in the game, just on the serve. Last year it happened twice. I hope not the same thing exactly but I just don't know right Acute sacroiliac joint pain

sidelined Mauresmo for seven weeks in March. The problem recurred in late July, forcing her to miss the US Open. Davenport had an easier time dispatching compatriot Lisa Raymond 7-5, 6-4, al-

though she too developed blis-

ters, one on the thumb of her

left hand and the other on the index finger. On the men's side of the draw. France's Sebastien Grosjean proved too good for Switzerland's Roger Federer, winning 7-5. 6-4. He will meet Australian Lleyton Hewitt who

Swedish pair Jonas Bjorkman and Magnus Norman will vye for the other finals berth.

eased past Fabrice Santoro 6-4

move really, my ankle was

bothering me, so I just tried to

finish the points as quickly as I

# Injuries bother Pierce



has added an an-

Open, reports AFP The French star Thursday played only her second match since pulling out of the US court, and later blamed her Open in September with a shaky form on a sore ankle. shoulder injury, beating South

CANBERRA. Jan African Joannette Kruger 6-3. 11: World number 6-0 in the quarterfinals of the seven Mary Pierce Canberra International. But the reigning French could," she said. kle problem to the Open champion struggled more

of niggling injuries dogging her made several unforced errors just days before the Australian which let her opponent remain in contention early on. Pierce had a foot massage mimediately after she left the

The problem is new. I just mounting number than she should have, and haven't played much, and it's just from not playing much." Pierce insists her shoulder is feeling fine, but after her first match earlier in the week, she listed several other complaints

> that were the result of a long period off the court. "You know my back, it aches Today I was not able to a little bit, my knee :- just little things from not playing for a while, nothing serious," she

said. Pierce, the top seed, meets compatriot and fourth seed Sandrine Testud in Friday's semifinal after Testud survived a tough three-setter against Japan's Ai Sugivama.

It took Testud more then two hours in exhausting heat to see off Sugivama 7-6 (10/8), 4-6, 6-

The result suits Pierce who has never lost to Testud In other matches. Belgian rising star Justine Henin continued her winning streak. knocking out third seed and world No.13 Chanda Rubin 6-2.

It was the 18-year-old's

eighth straight victory following

her triumph in the Australian

Women's Hardcourt Championships on the Gold Coast last week. Seventh seed Nathalie Dechy of France had one of her biggest victories. upsetting Russian second seed Elena Dementieva

6-2, 4-6, 6-4.

#### CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer 37 Half-DOWN 11 Roll-call ACROSS shilling 1 Lesage's 1 Corsetiere's Gil coin 17 Nipper's wares

8 SL

20 Period

glaciation

poisonous

puffer

sake!"

21 Potentially 56 Kues'

Louis 41 Harrow's by an landmark Angel" 42 Root 12 In the co-star 45 Onset 3 Since middle 49 Tub 4 Lownowhere 13 Suitable capacity? flying 14 Evoke 51 Preassault Casa-5 Demeaned 25 Equiennui 15 Cupid's blanca dummies 26 Feeds 6 South forte stopover 16 High-52 Individuals American 53 WWF quality resort 18 Jungle surface city 7 Needle expedition 54 Put

beverage

23 Picnic intruder Solution time: 21 mins. 24 Van Winkle's TAMEREMIT UNE EAT musician

together

57 Scrammed

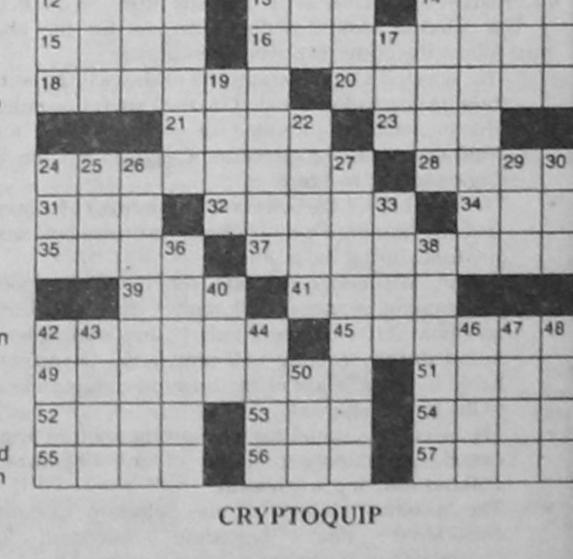
55 Hitching

case

8 Missing

rock

ATENERAPA



MSSBSB BSPVMVJSTX

Saturday's Cryptoquip: DISHONEST DAIRY FARMERS OFTEN LIKE TO MILK THE SYSTEM. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals H

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.



## for tax trouble NEW DELHI, Jan 11: Five

tax sources, said the players

game 28 Late Puente 31 Columbus had 25 million rupees in consch. cealed wealth while Sharma's 32 For -

> 34 Rowboat 35 Standard

accessory

0.0 19 Dobra Jo "louched of "That '70s Show" 22 Loosen 24 Sans smoking. for short 27 Navigation instruments 29 Middle of a game? 30 Mined find 33 Dalmatian

- AFP photo

9 Billiards name 36 Least format followers 10 Rugged embellished 38 Bury 40 Expert 42 Cease 43 "Oops!" 44 Austen novel 46 Inland

sea near the Caspian 47 Birthday treat 48 Recognized

KSPSKSS ISJ CVR ICVRJTS.

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for

50 Handle