## City baffle Brothers

SPORTS REPORTER

City Club registered their sixth win in the Premier Division Cricket League when they thrashed Brothers Union Club by nine wickets in a Relegation League match at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium Thursday.

Chasing Brothers' 230 in 50 overs, the Mirpur-based club reached 234 in just 37.2 overs with nine wickets in hand.

Opener Wasim Nayeem scored highest 78 and was followed by Moni and Rehan Rafique who were not out on 76 and 66 respectively.

Earlier captain Jahangir Alam made a superb 76 as Brothers Union scored 230 for nine from their share of overs after opting to bat first.

**SCORES IN BRIEF**

**Brothers Union:** 230 for 9 in 50 overs (Jahangir 76, Talukder 41, Sohag 37, Sohel 29; Palash 3/40)

**City Club:** 234 for one in 37.2 overs (W Nayeem 78, Moni 76 not out, R Rafique 66 not out)

**Result:** City Club won by nine wickets.

Div I cricket

## Super League begins today

UNB, *Dhaka*

The six-team Super League of the Metropolis First Division cricket begins today at different venues in Dhaka and Savar.

League leaders Uttara SC will take on Azad SC at the Dhaka University Jagannath Hall ground while Young Pegasus Club will play Gopibagh FA at the Jahangirnagar University ground in Savar on the opening day.

Meanwhile, the relegation league matches with the bottom six teams begin on Saturday.

Bangladesh Boys Club will face Indira Road KC at the Mirpur City Club ground while Wari Club will meet Eskaton Sabuj Sangha at the Jagannath Hall ground on the day.

## Magura cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Magura*

Rising Star Cricket Club and Sotto-Mittu Cricket Club won their respective matches in the Wazeda Ahmed Memorial Gold Cup cricket tournament at the local stadium on Thursday.

Rising Star defeated Bangabandhu Jubo-Kishore Sangsad by two wickets in the first match.

Batting first, Bangabandhu made 130 all out in 21.5 overs.

In reply, Rising Star reached the target of 131 runs for eight wickets in 23.4 overs.

In the second match of the day, Sotto-Mittu defeated Sonali Surja Club by five wickets.

Sonali Surja batted first and scored 86 runs losing all the wickets in 19.2 overs.

In reply, Sotto-Mittu made 87 for five in 13.5 overs.

## 'A BCCI ploy'

REUTERS, *New Delhi*

India's threat to boycott the World Cup was an attempt to get the ICC to intervene following the country's refusal to play Pakistan, an Indian cricket official said on Thursday.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) said on Tuesday it would boycott major events such as the World Cup and the ICC Knockout tournament until the government clarified its guidelines over which teams it was allowed to play.

The boycott threat came after the BCCI received a government letter saying the team was not to play at "non-regular" venues such as Sharjah and Singapore for the next three years.

"We want the International Cricket Council to intervene on the Pakistan problem," the official, who did not want to be identified, told this news agency.

"It (the threat) is a deliberate attempt on our part to shock the ICC. Nobody would contemplate not playing in the World Cup. We can send the guidelines to the ICC and they can't remain silent observers."

## BFF announces

FROM PAGE 13

named in the pool.

Mohammedan have four in the pool — Alfaz Ahmed, Matiur Munna, Faisal and Selim — while the rest six are Pavel and Monwar (Badda Jagarani), Moni and Kingshuk (Rahmatganj), Parvez (Brothers Union) and Khokon (Arambagh).

The inter-club booters' transfers will be held from May 5 to 8 while the season starts with the kick-off of Federation Cup from May 18.

**The Pool:** Aminul Haq, Biplab Bhattacharya, Firoz Mahmud Hossain Tito, Prodeep, Nazrul, Pavel, Hasan Al-Mamun, Matiur Munna, Iqbal Hossain, Monwar Hossain, Faisal Ahmed, Rajani Kanta Barman, Liton, Parvez, Sujon, Sourav Raju, Kanchan, Selim, Khokon, Tushar, Sentu and Kingshuk.

PHOTO: AFP

Denmark football team members present Peter Schmeichel (L) with a life-size poster of the goalkeeper just before the start of their international friendly game against Slovenia in Copenhagen on Wednesday. The match was Schmeichel's last for his country.

## Zamorano, Schmeichel bid adieu

Football

AFP

Two top stars announced their retirement from international football on Wednesday.

Chile captain Ivan Zamorano declared that he was quitting the national team in the wake of his country's World Cup qualifying defeat against Uruguay while Denmark great, former Manchester United keeper Peter Schmeichel brought down the curtain on his international career as he won his 129th and final cap in a 3-0 friendly over Slovenia.

*Santiago*

Zamorano, the 34-year-old veteran striker said he would no longer be available for the national team following the 1-0 loss, which all but extinguished Chile's chances of qualification for next year's finals.

Chile are third from bottom in the 10-team South American qualifying league table. Only the top four sides gain automatic qualification for next year's finals.

Zamorano is currently plying his trade with Mexican side America, who he joined earlier this season after a glittering club career in Europe with Real Madrid and Inter Milan.

With Lazio star Marcelo Salas he formed one-half of Chile's fabled 'Sa-Za' attacking partnership.

IVAN ZAMORANO

*Copenhagen*

Schmeichel, who now plays club football for outgoing Portuguese champions Sporting Lisbon, had hoped to sign off with a goal but instead was almost a spectator as the Danes won with second-half goals from Jesper Groenkjaer, Jon Dahl Tomasson and Ebbe Sand.

A 33,000 crowd turned out to pay homage to 37-year-old Schmeichel, who was part of the Danish squad which lifted the 1992 European Championship and who is his country's most-capped player of all time.

Aside from one close-range save it could have been a quiet night for 'Peter the Great' but instead he received a huge ovation as he gave way to Peter Kjaer after 65 minutes in an emotional farewell.

The substitution proved to be somewhat premature as Tomasson's goal on 69 minutes came from the penalty spot.

"It's a pity I had already gone off as I would like to have scored the goal," said Schmeichel, who did manage to score once for his country against Belgium.

"But it's still good to sign off with a win and it was a moving moment to bid farewell to the fans and to this Danish team which I was so proud to be a part of," said Schmeichel.

Before kick-off he warmly greeted former national coach Sepp Piontek as well as a nine-year-old boy who explained he had become a football fan through watching Schmeichel play.

Schmeichel, a linchpin of Manchester United's 1999 European Cup-winning side, observed he was the same age when one coach predicted he would one day become an international star.

## *Beginning of the end?*

Cricket

AP, *New Delhi*

Nayan Mongia is rated by the selectors as the best wicketkeeper in India, yet is not considered a suitable candidate for the national cricket lineup.

"Mongia is still the best wicketkeeper but we are looking at long-term prospects," said India's chief selector Chandu Borde.

Mongia, 31, has been left out of the 26 probables from which the team to tour Zimbabwe will be picked.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India's Secretary Jaywant Lele said India will experiment with youth on the tour of Zimbabwe and try to blood some newcomers into the Test side.

The Zimbabwe tour – starting May 28 – involves two Test matches and a tri-nation limited-overs series in which West Indies are the third team.

"We will be giving our youngsters a chance," Lele said. "If we don't give experiment with youngsters on the tour of Zimbabwe, when will do so?"

Despite the professed youth policy, Mongia doesn't know if he will be replaced by a younger player or someone marginally older than him – all of whom are no match to Mongia's prowess behind the wickets.

Giving Mongia company on the discards' bench is young wicketkeeper-batsman Vijay Dahiya,

NAYAN MONGIA

who kept wickets in the recent limited-overs series against Australia. The three wicketkeepers summoned for the national team camp are Samir Dighe, Ajay Ratra and Deep Dasgupta.

The probables will undergo a camp in the southern Indian city of Bangalore before the team touring squad is selected.

Mongia, a veteran of 44 Test matches, refuses to believe this is the end of road for him.

"I've performed well in (domestic) Ranji Trophy matches and will keep trying to work hard," Mongia said. "I hope to make a comeback. But I'm dejected right now and don't know how to react."

Dighe, 32, is a seasoned wicketkeeper who replaced the injured Mongia in the Indian team for the third Test of the home series against Australia, which India won 2-1.

Dighe's gritty innings in a nerve wracking climax to the series decider in Chennai on his Test debut earned him another chance despite an abysmal performance behind the stumps.

"The selectors felt Dighe won India the (Chennai) Test with his batting and wanted to give him more time," Borde said.

The other two contenders for the wicketkeeper's slot – Ratra and Dasgupta – are rated among the country's best young prospects alongside Dahiya, whom the selectors said was injured.

But Dahiya issued a rejoinder saying he was absolutely fit and injury had nothing to do with his ouster.

## Early exit for Agassi

Tennis

AFP, *Atlanta*

It was well worth the wait for France's Nicolas Thomann.

After his match with Andre Agassi was rained out on Tuesday night, the unheralded qualifier took the court Wednesday and shocked the American star 6-4, 7-5 in a first round match at the 400,000-dollar ATP Tour event here.

In his first claycourt match of the year, Agassi was beaten by an unknown 28-year-old who was playing just his sixth ATP match and was ranked 143rd in the world.

"I was nervous last night. I slept very well though," Thomann said. "I was very confident from the very first point when he double-faulted."

Agassi opened the match with two straight double faults and added a third in the same game to give Thomann the only break of the first set.

Thomann fought off two set points at 4-5 in the second set and broke Agassi for a 6-5 advantage. He served out the match in the next game.

"He was beating me forehand to forehand, stretching the point," Agassi said. "I was sliding after I hit the ball and struggled to get back into condition. I wasn't comfortable out on the court."

Agassi had appeared unstoppable heading into this event. He claimed consecutive Tennis Masters Series titles at Indian Wells and Miami, and had also successfully defended his Australian Open title in January. The ATP Champions race leader had won 22 of his first 24 matches in 2001.

It marked the first time that Agassi had lost his first claycourt match of the season since Monte Carlo in 1994. It was his first loss to a qualifier since he defaulted a match to fellow American Cecil Mamiit at San Jose, California, in 1999.

Two-time champion Michael Chang of the United States followed Agassi onto the scrapheap. South Korea's Hyung-Taik Lee defeated the third-seeded American 6-4, 7-6 (7/3) to reach the quarter-finals.

Chang owns 34 career titles, winning here in 1994-95, but has just one tournament win since the start of 1999. He claimed the 1989 French Open at the age of 17 for his only Grand Slam title.

Two former champions advanced to the quarterfinals earlier Thursday.

Defending champion Andrew Ilie of Australia, seeded fifth, got past Jens Knippschild of Germany 7-5, 4-6, 6-3, and unseeded Stefan Koubek of Austria, the 1999 winner, advanced when Czech Michal Tabara retired with a knee injury at 3-3 in the first set.

Unseeded Xavier Malisse of Belgium ousted fourth seed Rainer Schuettler of Germany 6-1, 6-1, and will face Ilie in the quarterfinals.

American teenager Andy Roddick reached the second round by holding off Dutchman Raemon Sluiter 6-2, 4-6, 6-4, in another match postponed by rain on Tuesday night.

Roddick, 18, scored the biggest win of his young career last month by defeating former world number one Pete Sampras in the Miami Masters Series.

## Foster Pakistan's bowling coach

AFP, *Karachi*

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has engaged Australian expert Daryl Foster as bowling coach and consultant for the England tour till a decision on the team's main coach

DARYL FOSTER

is finalised, board officials said Thursday.

Pakistan's search for the team's main coach is still on with South African-based Englishman Richard Pybus tipped as top contender, they said.

"Mr Foster has agreed to join the Pakistan team for the two Tests on the tour of England in May and we may extend his tenure for the one-day series as well," PCB director of operations Brigadier Munawwar Rana told this news agency.

"We are still negotiating with some people and may name the main coach in the next few days," he added.

Foster becomes the second foreign coach to be linked with Pakistan after Pybus remained associated with the team as trainer-cum-coach in 1999 before being sacked.

Pakistan dumped coach Javed Miandad after the tour of New Zealand earlier this month.

"Foster's utility will be more as he has recently worked with our fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar in Australia," Rana said.

Akhtar, cleared from a suspect bowling action, has played a key role in convincing Foster to join the team after he declined an initial offer earlier this month.

Rana refused to disclose the financial details of the deal saying: "This is confidential between us and Foster."

## Italy name ICC squad

AFP, *Rome*

Italy became the first nation to announce its squad Wednesday for the 2001 International Cricket Council (ICC) Trophy in Toronto in June and July.

Italy's star player is current Lancashire all-rounder Joe Scuderi.

Best known as a right-arm medium-quick bowler, Scuderi, 32, was born in Queensland and plays Sheffield Shield cricket for South Australia.

Another Aussie-Italian in the side is Hobart-based Peter Di Venuto, the brother of Australian One-Day international batsman, Michael.

**SQUAD**

Kamal Karyiyawasam (captain), Valerio Zuppirioli (vice-captain), Alessandro Bonora, Andrea Corbellari, Samantha De Mel, Peter Di Venuto, Benito Giordano, Hemanta Jayasena, Riccardo Maggio, Warren Mazzoncini, Andrea Parisi, Akhlaq Qureshi, Joe Scuderi, Aamir Shah

## Harbhajan honoured

AFP, *New Delhi*

Indian off-spinner Harbhajan Singh, whose hattrick heroics bagged him the man-of-the-series award during Australia's recent tour, has been offered a senior police post as reward.

The Press Trust of India reported Thursday that Singh had been offered the post of deputy superintendent of police (DSP) by his home state of Punjab.

At a special function on Wednesday, Punjab Chief Minister Prakash Singh Badal handed Singh 500,000 rupees (11,000 dollars), a small plot of land in his hometown Jalandhar and the offer of a DSP position.

The appointment will be taken up and cleared in the next cabinet meeting of the state government if Singh formally accepts the offer.

## Mohini Mohan

FROM PAGE 13

tered an easy seven-wicket win over Mymensingh Laboratory High School at the Manikganj Stadium.

**SCORES IN BRIEF**

**Mohini Mohan Biddyapith:** 200 for 8 in 35 overs (Anwarul 100, Firoz 23)

**Aga Khan High School:** 196 for 8 in 35 overs (Saveed 40, Don 31)

**Result:** Mohini Mohan Biddyapith won by four runs.

**Mymensingh Laboratory High School:** 113 all out in 23.3 overs (Rubel 39; Johny 3/18)

**Manikganj Govt. High School:** 115 for 3 in 20.1 overs (Babu 53)

**Result:** Manikganj Govt. High School won by seven wickets.

# Hussain has none to blame

Cricket

AFP, *London*

England captain Nasser Hussain contributed to his own dismissal on the first day of Essex's First Division County Championship match against Northamptonshire at Chelmsford on Wednesday.

He shouldered arms against former Essex pace bowler Darren Cousins only to see his off-stump knocked back — a lapse which ended a promising innings.

Hussain, who opened the Essex batting, had looked comfortable in moving to 15, an effort containing a couple of superbly driven boundaries

But just when he must have been thinking in terms of launching his season with a substantial score came the moment he will want to forget.

Darren Robinson was Essex's best batsman on the day. The stocky right-hander went confidently about his business, driving forcefully as he completed his half century from 115 deliveries.

He fell to a catch at silly point when he tried to force spinner Graeme Swann through mid-wicket.

By far the most impressive bowler on show was Cousins who, during his time with the county, was beset with injury problems.

But he looked fit enough as he came roaring in to capture three of the wickets which have so far fallen, including an opening spell of 2-19 in nine overs. At the close Essex were 154-6.

On a rain-marred day England fast bowler Chris Silverwood reminded the selectors of his Test credentials with 5-45 for Yorkshire in their first division match against Kent at Canterbury.

The bad news for Yorkshire was that Silverwood's fellow seamer Matthew Hoggard, the holder of an England central contract, left the field early with a side strain.

Without the services of England spearhead Darren Gough, Silverwood took on the strike bowling role himself returning 4-22 in 9.1 post-lunch overs. Kent were bowled out for 142 and at stumps Yorkshire were 12-0 in reply.

In the Second Division Durham opener Jon Lewis top-scored with 56 but the north-east county suffered a late collapse against Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge, slipping from 117-1 to 148-5.

Rain prevented any play in the first division matches between reigning champions Surrey and Lancashire at Old Trafford and Glamorgan's match against Somerset in Cardiff was also a victim of a first day washout.

Wet weather also prevented play in the second division fixtures between Derbyshire and Middlesex at the Racecourse Ground and Worcestershire v Sussex at New Road.

**SCORE SUMMARIES**

English County Championship score summaries on Wednesday (first day of four):

**First Division**

At Chelmsford: Essex 154-6 (D Robinson 61; D Cousins 3-71) v Northamptonshire

At Cardiff: Glamorgan v Somerset. No play Wednesday (rain)

At Canterbury: Kent 142 (C Silverwood 5-45) v Yorkshire 12-0

At Old Trafford: Lancashire v Surrey. No play Wednesday (rain)

**Second Division**

At Derby: Derbyshire v Middlesex. No play Wednesday (rain)

At Trent Bridge: Durham 148-5 (J Lewis 56) v Nottinghamshire

At New Road: Worcestershire v Sussex. No play Wednesday (rain)

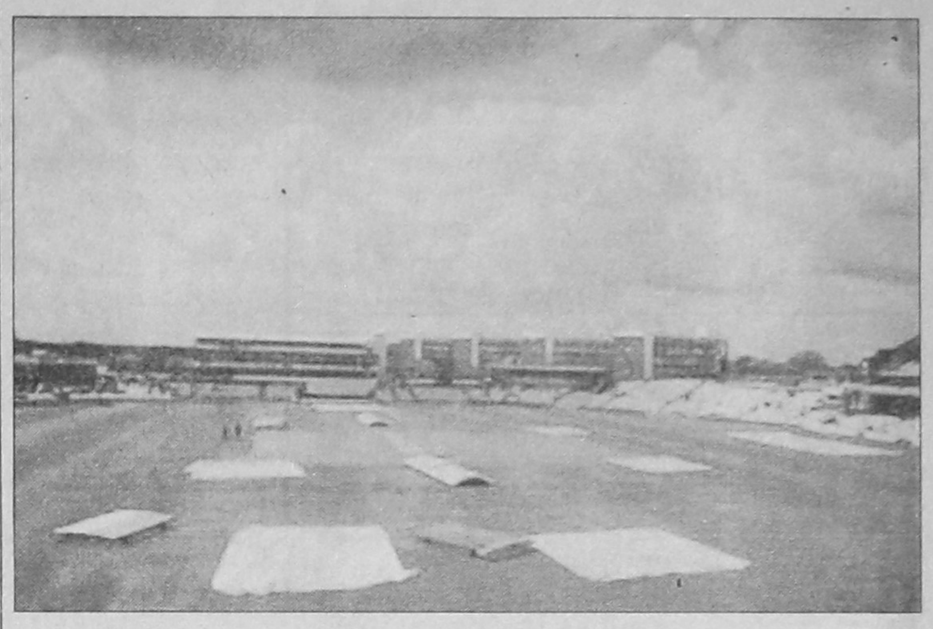

PHOTO: INTERNET

Clouds gather over Old Trafford where Lancashire's County Championship game with Surrey was abandoned due to wet pitch on Wednesday.

# Ferrero, Moya move on

Tennis

REUTERS, *Barcelona*

Spanish number three seed Juan Carlos Ferrero saved two match points on his way to a dramatic 7-6, 6-7, 7-5 victory over Adrian Voinea in the second round of the Barcelona Open on Wednesday.

Victory for Ferrero and 11th seed Carlos Moya, who breezed past Slovakian Karol Kucera 7-5, 6-0, brightened up the day for the centre-court crowd after illness forced second seed Magnus Norman to retire from his match against Albert Portas with the first set level at 1-1.

The Swede's withdrawal deprived the tournament of its top three players, following injuries to Gustavo Kuerten and Marat Safin, and Ferrero and Moya both emerged as candidates to take advantage as they scored contrasting wins.

Ferrero looked to have his match against the qualifier Voinea sewn up as he came back from 4-0 down in the opening set tie-break to take it 8-6 and then forge 5-2 ahead in the second.

Voinea broke back to take the set to the tie-break and once again he started the stronger as he built a 5-0 lead. Ferrero threatened a repeat performance but his opponent held on to clinch it 7-5.

Ferrero appeared to tire in the third set and Voinea took advantage as he broke in game eight for 5-3.

The Spaniard, who lost to Safin in the final last year, broke back immediately but as he served to stay in the match at 4-5 he needed a lucky net-cord to survive, the ball crawling over the net on the first match-point.

He saved another and then won the next two games to emerge a grateful winner.

Moya has a good record in the Catalan capital, having reached the semifinals in five of his six appearances but he has never managed to go on to make the final.

The other highlights for the Spanish fans on Wednesday were victories for Alex Calatrava and Tommy Robredo, both against Frenchmen.

Calatrava defeated 14th seed Nicolas Escude 6-3, 7-6 while the 18-year-old Robredo continued his excellent run of late with a 6-2, 6-2 stroll against eighth seed Sebastien Grosjean in a little more than an hour.

Costa then won an all-Spanish battle with Albert Montanes 6-4, 4-6, 7-6 to set up an intriguing clash with Ferrero before Galo Blanco overcame Marc Rosset of Switzerland 7-6, 6-4.

There were further wins for Spaniards in late games, with Sergi Brugera beating Slovakian sixth seed Dominik Hrbaty, who had been doubtful because of a slight ankle injury, 6-0, 6-2 and wild card Felix Mantilla coming through against Agustin Calleri of Argentina 6-1, 1-6, 6-4.

Ukrainian Andrei Medvedev rediscovered some form to overcome Spanish challenger German Puentes 6-4, 6-3.

## WCL final today

SPORTS REPORTER

Renegades will take on Ramblers in the final of the Partex WECCA inaugural Weekend Cricket League (WCL) at the Old DOHS ground in Banani in the city this morning.

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president and Deputy Minister for LGRD Saber Hossain Chowdhury will witness the match as chief guest while two directors elect of BCB Syed Ashraful Huq and Aziz Al-Kaiser will be present as special guests.

A total of ten teams took part in the league which Partex Group is sponsoring.

## CROSSWORD *By Eugene Sheffer*

**ACROSS**

1 Prime field of study
6 Warning sounds
12 "Nel Blu Dipinto di Blu"
13 Sitcom actress Metcalf
14 Mingo portrayer
15 Rent-free?
16 Splicer's subject
17 Arduous journey
19 Bottom line
20 Delhi garb
22 Lose firmness
24 Ref
27 Accompanying
29 Somewhere out there
32 It sticks to your ribs
35 Lab assistant?
36 Chore
37 Competition component
38 It may be faux
40 Second story man?
42 Packed away
44 Hurled
46 Rose fruits
50 Individual
52 Actress Silverstone
54 Scope
55 Octogenarian's next milestone
56 Couturier's concerns
57 Saw parts

**DOWN**

1 Full-size fashion mag
2 Chester — Arthur
3 Band-leader Harry
4 Cinnabar, e.g.
5 Limit
6 Collagist's need
7 Military strata
8 Chic no more
9 Unfair
10 Italian bread
11 Faxed
12 Be a couch potato
18 Signs of obsessive-compulsiveness
21 Idolater's emotion
23 Battery size
24 Where, to Caesar
25 Periodical
26 Boardwalk or Park Place
28 Pausing
30 Dogfight battler
31 — U.S. Pat. Off.
33 Car-front protector
34 Reggae-like music
39 Teatime treat
41 Lorelei's river
42 Shows unoriginality
43 School-book
45 Pants invaders
47 Rap star
48 Essence
49 Opinion
51 Partner of poivre
53 Golfer's concern

**Solution time: 27 mins.**

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| J | A | W | | P | R | O | P | | W | A | F | T |
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| S | L | E | A | Z | E | | A | P | E | | | |
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| H | O | P | E | S | | L | O | X | | I | R | A |
| A | R | I | D | | V | A | N | | C | L | A | P |
| N | E | E | | S | I | X | | H | U | L | L | S |
| G | O | R | D | O | N | | F | I | R | | | |
| | | | A | X | E | | I | N | S | I | D | E |
| B | A | L | D | | G | O | R | G | E | O | U | S |
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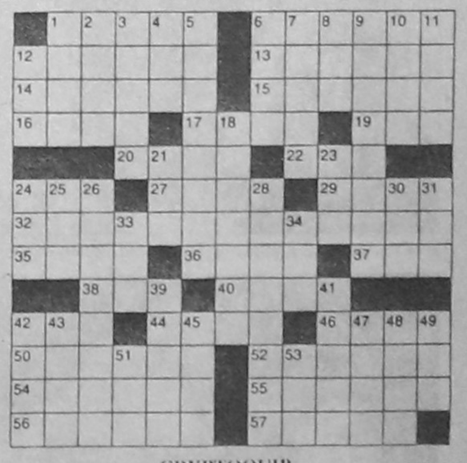
| H | A | Z | Y | | R | A | T | S | | A | L | Y |



**CRYPTOQUIP**

X N B X B C E B X X A B L C J G D C I X G T B T V B I K V B V N B ' V A K E B X Q T B X K T B : N B ' Y T G J Q G X Q ' D Y X B C L.

**Yesterday's Cryptoquip:** SNACK FOOD I RECKON MONKEYS DEFINITELY PREFER: CHOCOLATE CHIMP COOKIES.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals U

The Cryptoquip 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.