

CityCell Digital National Youth Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Mymensingh, Narail, Habiganj, Nilphamari and Barisal moved into the next round of their respective zonal qualifying round after winning their respective CityCell Digital 22nd National Youth (under-19) Cricket Championship yesterday.

On the opening day of the qualifying round, Mymensingh beat Manikganj by four wickets in a Group B match of Dhaka Zone at the Jagannath Hall ground of Dhaka University.

Chasing Manikganj's 170 for nine in a match reduced to 44-over-a-side, the winners reached home for the loss of six wickets in 42 overs with Mahmudullah hammering highest 61. Uttam (38) was the other notable scorer for Mymensingh.

In Jessore, Narail defeated Bagerhat by three wickets.

Electing to bat first, Bagerhat were shot out for 116 in 37.2 overs in the face of some fired up bowling from Tareq who finished with four for 14.

In reply, Narail reached their target in 36 overs with three wickets to spare.

Away in Sylhet, Habiganj tamed Moulvi Bazar by six wickets.

Chasing 137 in 50 overs, Habiganj reached their target in 38.1 overs losing four wickets.

Saidur scored highest 39 while Sam added 33 to the winners credit.

In the other two matches, Nilphamari and Barisal got walk-overs against Lalmonirhat and Bhola respectively at Rangpur and Patuakhali.

**SCORES IN BRIEF**

**Mymensingh v Manikganj**  
Venue: Jagannath Hall Ground.  
**Manikganj:** 170 for 9 in 44 overs (Tito 33, Sumon 32)  
**Mymensingh:** 171 for 6 in 42 overs (Mahmudullah 61, Uttam 38, Farid 2-38)  
**Result:** Mymensingh won by four wickets.

**Narail v Bagerhat**  
Venue: Jessore Stadium.  
**Bagerhat:** 116 all out in 37.2 overs (Salim 22, Kabir 21, Tareq 4-14, Sanjeeb 2-6)  
**Narail:** 118 for 7 in 36 overs (Pavel 34, Maruf 20)  
**Result:** Narail won by three wickets.

**Habiganj v Moulvi Bazar**  
Venue: Sylhet Stadium.  
**Moulvi Bazar:** 139 all out in 42.1 overs (pappu 22, Babu 13, Ferdous 3-35, Sami 2-27)  
**Habiganj:** 140 for 4 in 38.1 overs (Saidur 39, Jewel 34, Sami 33)  
**Result:** habiganj won by six wickets.

Love lucky at last



AFP, Melbourne

You look at the Boxing Day Test on the television and to actually have a chance of playing in one is really special.

"The runs have been coming quite well for me and I've been hitting the ball as well as I have in my career



MARTIN LOVE

so the chance to play now is good timing. I'm delighted to get an opportunity."

Waugh praised Love, who has scored 781 runs at an average of

130.16 this summer, including 250 and 201 not out against the England tourists for Queensland and Australia respectively.

"He's always been a very good player, a quality player," said Waugh.

"You can tell that by the amount of time he has to play his shots. He's never rushed and has a very solid technique and all-round game, a very good temperament and I think he'll be ideally suited to Test match cricket. I think he'll be a player that will blossom.

"He's got to be confident, the amount of runs he's scored against them.

"Those sort of games are different to Test matches, but I've got no doubt he's a Test match-quality player. He's waited such a long time - he knows he's ready and we all know he's ready and the opposition knows he's ready.

"He'll command automatic respect even though he's playing in his first Test match."

Love meanwhile said, "At this stage I'm just filling in for him for one game."

Love has been on the first-class scene for ten years and sheer weight of runs earned him his first baggy green cap ahead of young New South Welshman Michael Clarke.

Waugh confirmed Love, the Queensland No. 3, would bat at No. 6 and field at first slip in place of Warne, denying it would be too nerve-racking for the debutant to sit around waiting to bat longer than he normally would for his home state.

"I think six is not a bad position to play your first Test," said Waugh.

Indian board backs players

AFP, Calcutta

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) decided Wednesday to back its players in an ongoing contracts row, taking the International Cricket Council (ICC) head on.

"We've decided to stand by our players on the ICC World Cup contracts issue," president Jagmohan Dalmiya told reporters after the cricket board met in Calcutta.

"Certain restrictive clauses in the proposed ICC contracts are unjustified and the Indian board will not be a party in an attempt to induce the players to break existing contracts," he said.

The proposed ICC contracts bar players from advertising products that conflict with those of the official tournament sponsors, even if they have existing deals.

Top Indian players including star batsman Sachin Tendulkar have contracts with rivals of official sponsors.

The situation mirrors a row that preceded the ICC Champions Trophy tournament in Sri Lanka in September, when top Indian stars were on the verge of withdrawing.

But this time the Indian board has said it will name a team of 15 players by the December 31 deadline and then await the outcome of the contracts issue.



PARADORN SRICHAPHAN

Paradorn more popular than the Premier

AFP, Bangkok

Thai tennis sensation Paradorn Srichaphan easily beat Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra to scoop a poll seeking to find Thailand's person-of-the-year on Monday.

The respected Abac University Polling Agency said 54 per cent of the nearly 1,500 poll respondents voted Paradorn their favourite person, with Thaksin trailing in second place after winning 27 per cent of the open vote.

Justice Minister Purachai Piemsomboon -- who as former interior minister led a hugely popular moral crusade across the country -- was named by seven per cent as their favourite Thai personality.

Paradorn's father Chanachai, his life-long coach, was voted into fourth place with three per cent of the vote.

The polite and unassuming Paradorn has skyrocketed from a world ranking of 126 in January to 16, claiming the scalps of world number one Lleyton Hewitt and former world number one Andre Agassi and Marat Safin along the way.

The 23-year-old won his first ATP title at Long Island in the United States this year and followed it up with a second ATP win in Stockholm.

Boxing Day Test

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keeping wicket to the fast bowlers regularly inspected his injured hand and was clearly in pain.

"If it was a one-day game then I wouldn't have a problem, but in a Test match I might be keeping for 120 overs or more," admitted Stewart.

"If I play then I won't be playing fully fit."

Understudy James Foster will be given a shock Test recall if Stewart is not risked.

Foster has not played any competitive cricket since the drawn match against Australia A in Hobart nearly six weeks ago.

But he was given a thorough workout during Wednesday's net session and a long bat as England considered their options for a Test expected to attract a capacity 70,000 for the opening day.

England were also planning a late check on Alex Tudor to make sure the fast bowler is ready to return after being hit on the head by a Brett Lee bouncer in the third Test.

"At this stage he is physically fit to play. We've just got to have a look and see if he feels comfortable batting and that his eye is picking up the ball," said England coach Duncan Fletcher.

Fletcher refused to consider drafting in Nick Knight or Paul Collingwood from the one-day squad after their encouraging displays with the bat.

But he indicated that paceman Steve Harmison, who impressed against Sri Lanka, was likely to keep his place.

"We played some good cricket against Sri Lanka and it's lifted the side," said Fletcher.

"The bowlers, especially young Harmison, bowled well and it will be interesting to see how he fares against the Australian batsmen now."

**SQUADS**

**AUSTRALIA (from):** Steve Waugh (capt), Matthew Hayden, Justin Langer, Ricky Ponting, Damien Martyn, Darren Lehmann, Martin Love, Adam Gilchrist, Stuart MacGill, Brett Lee, Jason Gillespie, Glenn McGrath, Andy Bichel.

**ENGLAND (from):** Nasser Hussain (capt), Marcus Trescothick, Michael Vaughan, Mark Butcher, Robert Key, John Crawley, Alec Stewart, Craig White, Ian Blackwell, Richard Dawson, Andrew Caddick, Steve Harmison, Alex Tudor, Matthew Hoggard.

Sydney can't

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my job -- I feel relaxed and comfortable about that," said Waugh.

"It's got to the stage now where the team is basically on automatic pilot.

"Our team meetings generally last for about five minutes whereas when I first got into the side they could go for about an hour, an hour and a half.

"The team is running really smoothly. I think that's a sign you've done your job pretty well."

India sans

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confidence within ourselves. You see the bowling unit is doing very well. The message is efficiency has to improve and continue to improve as we are looking forward for South Africa."

SQUAD

**NEW ZEALAND (from):** Stephen Fleming (capt), Nathan Astle, Lou Vincent, Mathew Sinclair, Craig McMillan, Brendon McCullum, Kyle Mills, Jacob Oram, Shane Bond, Daniel Vettori, Paul Hitchcock, Daryl Tuffey.

**INDIA (from):** Sourav Ganguly (capt), Virender Sehwag, Rahul Dravid, Venkatesh Laxman, Mohammad Kaif, Yuvraj Singh, Ajit Agarkar, Harbhajan Singh, Anil Kumble, Zaheer Khan, Ashish Nehra, Javagal Srinath.

Ctg still on

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magical three-figure mark for seven runs. The opening batsman was run out in a terrible mix-up with Arman.

Barisal now took a massive lead of 338 runs, leaving Rajshahi to bat out the final day to save the match.

Barisal scored 221 in the first innings and bowled Rajshahi out for 198.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboards on the third day of three Ispahani Mirzapore National Cricket League matches held at different venues yesterday:

**Chittagong v Sylhet**  
Venue: BNS  
Toss: Sylhet.

**CHITTAGONG:** First innings 372 all out in 100 overs (Nizamuddin 140, Akram 105; Parvez 3-39, Enamul jr 2-89)

**SYLHET:** First innings (Overnight 204 for 8 in 71 overs)  
Imtiaz lbw b Safiuddin 13  
Sishir c Nazimuddin b Sabbir 16  
Parvez c Mortuza b Safiuddin 4  
Nasirul lbw b Safiuddin 6  
Rajin not out 107  
T Hadi c Aftab b Ahsanullah 19  
Rana lbw b Safiuddin 1  
Rezaul lbw b Ahsanullah 8  
Hasibul lbw b Safiuddin 32  
Ejaz c Safiuddin b Aftab 30  
Enamul jr b Minhazul 0  
Extras: (b-3, lb-7, nb-2, w-5) 17  
Total: (All out in 82.4 overs) 253  
Fall of wickets: 1-15, 2-28, 3-36, 4-49, 5-126, 6-127, 7-151, 8-196, 9-252

**Bowler** O M R W  
Waseluddin 5 3 8 0  
Safiuddin 26 6 84 5  
Minhazul 15.4 5 21 1  
Sabbir 16 2 66 1  
Ahsanullah 19 4 58 2  
Aftab 1 0 6 1

**CHITTAGONG:** Second innings  
Nafis Sishir b Parvez 20  
Nazimuddin run out 0  
Aftab b Enamul jr 39  
Sabbir st. Sishir b Enamul jr 5  
Akram c Hadi b Rezaul 45  
Minhazul c Parvez b Rezaul 7  
Azam c Rajin b Enamul jr 10  
Ahsanullah b Rezaul 4  
Wasel c Rana b Enamul jr 4  
Mortuza st. Sishir b Enamul jr 3  
Safiuddin not out 0  
Extras: (b-8, lb-5, w-5) 18  
Total: (All out in 53.1 overs) 155  
Fall of wickets: 1-3, 2-58, 3-73, 4-78, 5-87, 6-100, 7-121, 8-138, 9-153

**Bowler** O M R W  
Hasibul 10 2 37 0  
Rezaul 15.1 1 37 3  
Parvez 8 3 15 1  
Enamul jr 17 4 41 5  
Imtiaz 3 0 12 0

**SYLHET:** Second innings  
Sishir batting 8  
Parvez lbw b Minhazul 3  
Imtiaz b Safiuddin 0  
Ejaz run out 0  
Rezaul b Sabbir 0  
Rajin batting 0  
Extras: (lb-1, w-5) 6  
Total: (For 4 wickets in 14 overs) 17  
Fall of wickets: 1-11, 2-12, 3-13, 4-17

**Bowler** O M R W  
Safiuddin 6 1 14 1

Minhazul 5 3 2 1  
Ahsanullah 2 2 0 0  
Sabbir 1 1 0 1

**Dhaka v Khulna**  
Venue: BKSP  
Toss: Dhaka

**KHULNA:** First innings (overnight 256 for 4 in 93 overs)  
Sajjadul c Bikash b Saiful 102  
Salauddin b Bikash 11  
Raju c Sajjad b Mazharul 37  
Jamal lbw b Fahim 27  
Hasanuzzaman c Jahangir b Bikash 34  
Manjarul not out 55  
Asadullah not out 16  
Extras: (b-15, nb-12, w-1) 28  
Total: (For 5 wickets in 100 overs dec.) 310  
Fall of wickets: 1-44, 2-121, 3-181, 4-228, 5-257

**Bowler** O M R W  
Saiful 18 3 44 1  
Bikash 20 1 89 2  
Arafat 37 12 83 0  
Fahim 17 1 66 1  
Mazharul 8 1 13 1

**DHAKA:** First innings  
Rashedul lbw b Manjarul 61  
Mehrab c Selim b Russel 0  
Jahangir c Selim b Manjarul 30  
Halim batting 28  
Mazharul lbw b Manjarul 37  
Arafat batting 0  
Extras: (b-1, lb-1, nb-1, w-1) 4  
Total: (For 4 wickets in 63 overs) 160  
Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-92, 3-96, 4-156

**Bowler** O M R W  
Al-Amin 14 3 46 0  
Russel 8 2 22 1  
Razzak 16 5 39 0  
Manjarul 19 4 33 3  
Jamaluddin 6 1 18 0

**Barisal v Rajshahi**  
Venue: DCS  
Toss: Rajshahi

**BARISAL:** First innings 221 all out in 80.1 overs (Prosenjit 55, Sabbir 25, Ali Arman 28; Shafaq 3-41, Nuruzzaman 3-22, Aminul jr 2-69)

**RAJSHAH:** First innings 198 all out in 73.5 overs (Jamal 92, Nuruzzaman 43; Anisur 6-38, Pijush 3-36)

**BARISAL:** Second innings (overnight 50 for 2 in 20 overs)  
Imran run out 93  
Ranim lbw b Aminul jr 7  
Nayan b Shafaq 0  
Nahidul c Hasan b Aminul 1  
Shahin c Zharul b Jamal 23  
Prosenjit b Shafaq 18  
Ali Arman not out 109  
Nadif c Shamsul b Aminul 9  
Pijush b Nuruzzaman 13  
Anis c Zharul b Nuruzzaman 3  
Debabrotto c sub b Shafaq 2  
Extras: (b-24, lb-8, nb-2, w-3) 37  
Total: (All out in 113.2 overs) 315  
Fall of wickets: 1-25, 2-30, 3-59, 4-140, 5-154, 6-184, 7-223, 8-282, 9-292

**Bowler** O M R W  
Shafaq 36.2 10 94 3  
Aminul jr 23 7 71 3  
Nuruzzaman 17 5 34 2  
Mustadir 19 8 40 0  
Mahabub 3 0 15 0  
Jamaluddin 15 3 29 1

Greg blow to England



AFP, London

Great Britain's hopes of defeating mighty Australia in the Davis Cup in February went from slim to virtually non-existent on Tuesday when Greg Rusedski ruled himself out through injury.

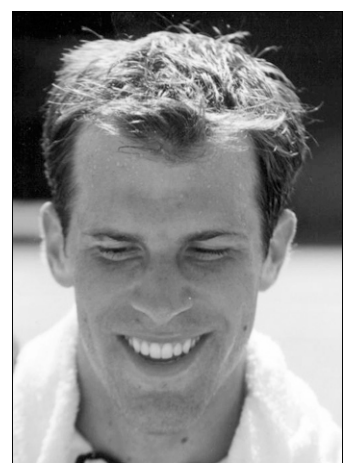
Rusedski is recovering from foot surgery and plans to play in the Qatar Open in Doha in the first week of January before deciding if he is fit enough to play in the Australian Open which starts on January 13.

But he has already informed captain Roger Taylor he will not play in the World Group first-round tie in Sydney from Thursday 7-9, with the switch from hard courts to clay understood to be a cause for concern.

"I don't want to put the Davis Cup team in a difficult position by giving them last-minute notice if I had to withdraw," said Rusedski, who was perceived in some quarters to have done just that before September's clash with Thailand in Birmingham.

"I'm not sure how my foot will react in Doha, let alone the Australian Open. The surgeons warned me that it would take four to six months to recover from the operation.

"I'm going to Doha with a completely open mind, having just got back to training within the last two weeks."



GREG RUSEDSKI

but will need to be on the top of his game against Australia's world number one Lleyton Hewitt.

Britain have not won a World Group tie in the competition since 1986 and defeat in Sydney would condemn them to yet another

relegation play-off.

Rusedski's withdrawal comes just two days after Henman blasted the state of British tennis.

"I fear for British tennis. Aside from Greg and myself, the rankings are worse now than they have been for a long time," said the 28-year-old.

"A decade ago, we had seven players in the top 200. What have we got now?"

Australia is breaking with 103 years of Davis Cup tradition by staging a home tie on clay for the first time to counter the serve-volley game of Henman.

Australian captain John Fitzgerald said the decision was a unanimous one from his squad, headed by Hewitt, who had initially been less than enthusiastic about playing the tie on clay.

"I think Lleyton more than anything wanted to make sure it was a quality clay court," Fitzgerald said.

"His problem was not clay in itself. He wanted to make sure it was a good quality clay court and we are absolutely satisfied it will be."

"This is certainly our home court advantage and I just don't want people to forget it was a couple of years ago when Lleyton and Mark Philippoussis played singles in the final of the Davis Cup in Nice and it was on clay," he said, referring to their victorious tie against France in 1999.

Biman a class

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.5 points, Sonali Bank beat Farashganj Sporting Club by 3.5-5 points, Mohakhali Prodeep Sangha beat Dhaka University chess team by 2.5-1.5 points, Narayanganj City Club beat Anu Memorial Club by 3-1 points and Nakhalpara Jubo Kalyan Sangha drew with Monipur Chess Club 2-2.

The 14th round games will start today from 3:30 p.m. at the same venue.

Today's matches: Titas v Biman, Leonine v Anirban, Bangshal v Ansar, Anu Memorial v Kamapur, Dhaka University v Narayanganj, Farashganj v Prodeep Sangha, Nakhalpara v Sonali Bank and Anushillan v Monipur.

Bangladesh rout

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the second half with Ujjal netting in the 56th and 72nd minutes while Farhad scored in the 66th, 74th and 79th minutes.

It was Bangladesh's second win in as many matches. They are already assured of a berth in the semifinals. The national team beat Indian club side George Telegraph 2-0 in their opening match on Tuesday.

Bangladesh, who are taking part in the tournament as part of their preparation for next month's South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship, will play local side Thimpu XI in their last group match tomorrow.

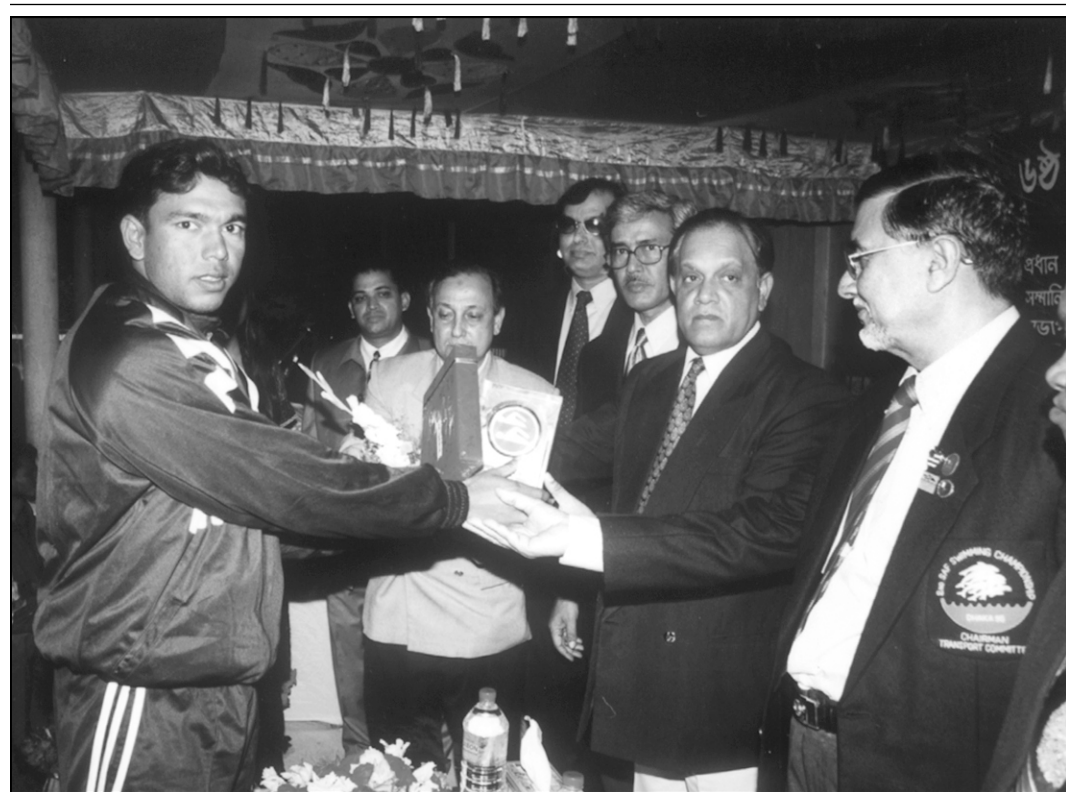


PHOTO: COURTESY

Chief of Naval Staff Rear Admiral Shah Iqbal Mujtaba hands over the winner's trophy to Karar Samedul Islam of Bangladesh Navy, who won the Pagla-Munshiganj long distance swimming competition on December 24.

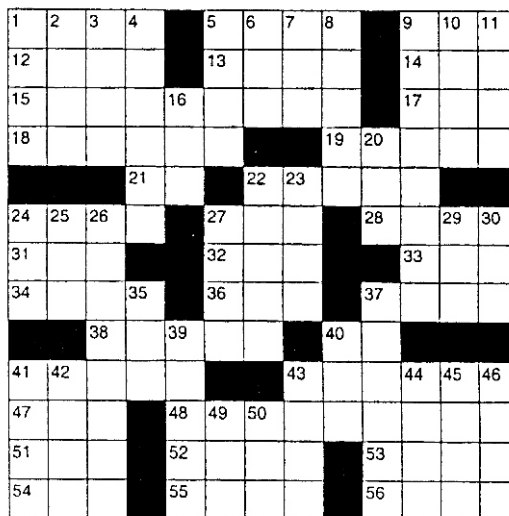
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

36 Madison Avenue output  
5 Galileo's hometown  
9 Comedian  
12 Pin -- horse open sleigh  
13 Perfect place  
14 Grammy category  
15 Bus route, maybe  
17 Galena, for example  
18 Chopping spree  
19 "Barnaby Jones" star  
21 "Goodness!"  
22 Astrodom home  
24 Spiked club  
27 Equine entree  
28 Competent  
31 Stick figure?  
32 Before  
33 Have a bug  
34 Farm laborer

**DOWN**

1 Bulletin board  
2 Late  
2 Circle dance  
3 "Are you -- out?"  
4 Tahini base  
5 Seeger or Sampras  
6 " -- not choose to run"  
7 Mend  
8 Wing, perhaps  
9 Goalpost part  
10 Aesopian also-ran  
11 Tournament format  
16 Pippen  
20 Larm's call  
22 Late  
23 Peacock tail  
24 Swab  
25 Exist  
26 Archer's weapon  
27 Be in charge of  
29 XIII  
30 Shade provider  
35 Born  
37 Just look  
39 Top  
40 Hosp. people  
41 Ostriches' kin  
42 Living room piece  
43 Since  
44 \$50, "Monopoly"  
45 Ticklish Muppet  
46 Epidermis  
49 Wish otherwise  
50 -- pro nobis



**CRYPTOQUIP**  
C H X B H Q P A D H P B S C L  
F E F M D G O B P Y V O M Q H N E F T P  
H S U D B B H N F Y O H A O G P  
M G X D L C F Q T G B H E H U V P B P .  
Yesterday's Cryptogram: IF A DELI BECAME KNOWN FOR ITS PICKLES, WOULD IT THEN BE A HOUSE OF DILL REPUTE?  
Today's Cryptogram Clue: P equals S

The Cryptogram 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.