

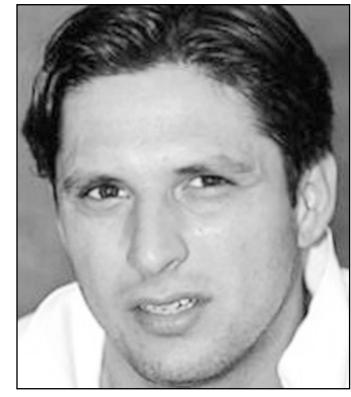
New lease of life

APP, Peshawar



Pakistan's popular all-rounder Shahid Afridi said on Thursday he had almost given up playing cricket in the past year, but adoring fans made him change his mind.

The hard-hitting batsman had not been considered by the selectors since Pakistan's embarrassing first-round exit from the World Cup



SHAHID AFRIDI

in South Africa a year ago.

But he was brought back for the ongoing one-day series against India and responded with a blistering 80 off 58 balls in his comeback match at Rawalpindi on Tuesday which helped Pakistan win.

"These last 12 months have been a wake up call," the 24-year-old said ahead of Friday's third

one-dayer to be played before his adoring fellow Pathans in this northwestern city.

"I had almost decided to give up cricket, but the affection I received from fans kept me going."

"Even in India, where I went as captain of the Pakistan A team last year, the crowds kept urging me to fight for my place in the national side. It was very touching."

"If I can score consistently, I know I will be here to stay for a long time."

Afridi, who scored just 16 runs in three World Cup games, was suspended temporarily by the Pakistan Cricket Board after being charged with verbal abuse during the key clash against India at the Centurion Park on March 1 last year.

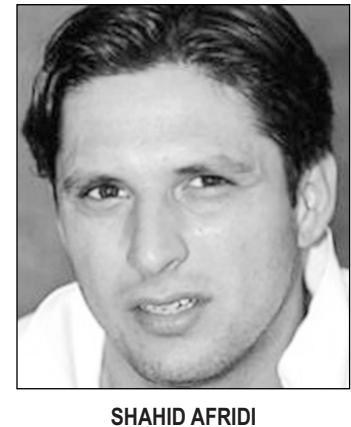
It has been a roller-coaster ride for the young man, who was selected for Pakistan in 1997 purely as a leg-spinner and smashed a record-breaking century in 37 balls in only his second game against Sri Lanka.

Now married with two daughters, Afridi said he had matured as a cricketer after a recent stint with Griqualand in South Africa's domestic cricket.

"South African pitches have more bounce than the ones in Pakistan and helped me develop my batting," he said.

Afridi said he was enjoying India's first full tour of Pakistan since 1989.

"We share very good relations with the Indian players, but no quarter is spared when we get on the field. The most important thing for me is to see Pakistan win," he said.



JU cricket

BSS, Savar

Bangla Department stormed into the last eight of the inter-department cricket championship of Jahangirnagar University (JU) when they beat International Relations by 11 runs at the university-central playground yesterday.

Batting first, Bangla scored 153 for eight in the stipulated 25 overs with Jahid hitting 38 while Saeed and Shohagh added 22 runs each. Swapani and Noyon took two wickets each for Bangla Department.

In reply, International Relations were all out for 142 in 25 overs. Munna was the team's highest scorer with 43 and Saeikin made 42.

Kabadi meet

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Army registered an exciting 47-46 victory over Bangladesh Police in the opening match of the Independence Day kabadi competition at the outer stadium kabadi court yesterday.

Bangladesh Army, Bangladesh Police, Bangladesh Navy and Bangladesh Rifles are taking part in the tournament organised by Bangladesh Kabadi Federation.

Earlier, Bangladesh Kabadi Federation vice-president AKM Mukit Rahman inaugurated the meet.

Parsvnath chess

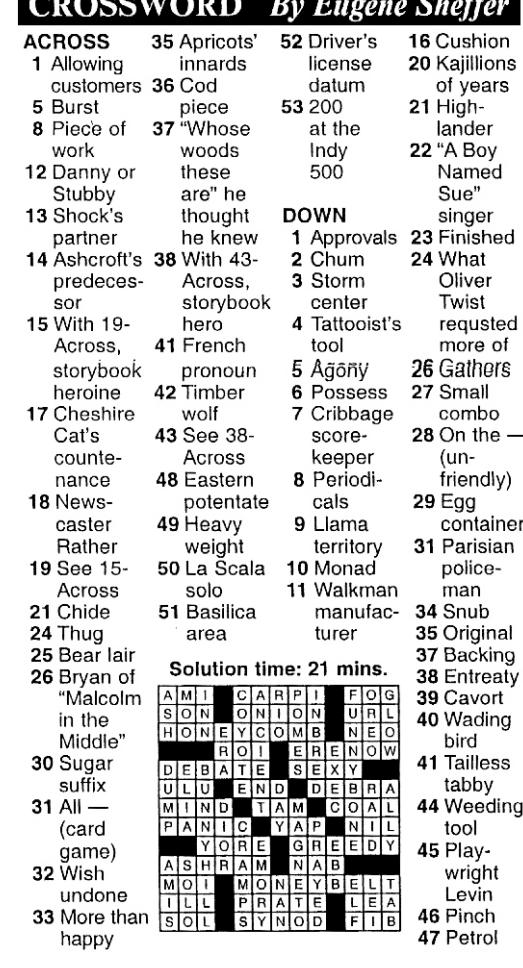
FROM PAGE 13

Arman Monir.

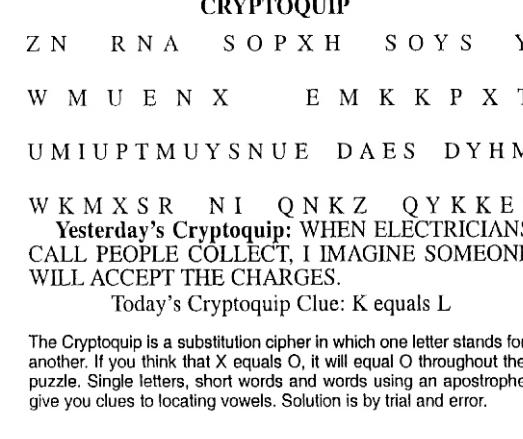
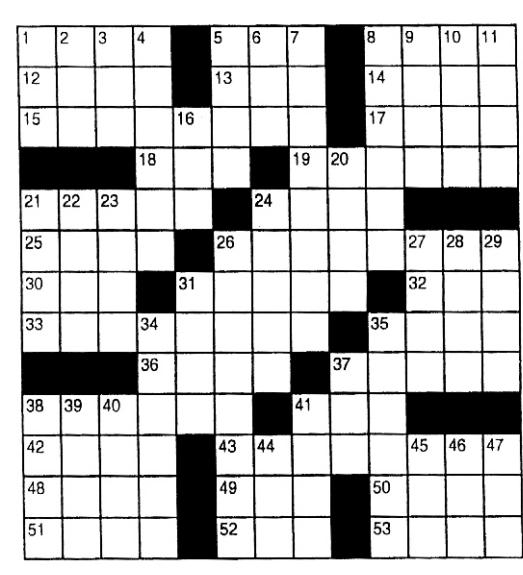
TENTH ROUND RESULTS

Debaraj beat IM Konguvel, Khandkar Amin drew with Satyapragyan, Rakib drew with Srinivas, Parag beat Somak Palit, Rajib beat Dilip, Rani beat Gopalakrishna, Nasir beat David, Poolab beat Sangeetha Maleg beat Junaid, Monjur beat Hemant Arman beat Weerawarde, Shakil drew with Nasir Ali and Javed lost against Deep Gupta.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer



Solution time: 21 mins.



Injured Bangladesh fast bowler Mashrafee-bin-Mortuza (R) chats with all-rounder Manjul Islam Rana at the Bangladesh Cricket Board's management office in Gulshan yesterday. Mashrafee went to submit his passport as he is scheduled to leave for the Sri Lankan capital Colombo today. In Colombo, Mashrafee will meet Dr David Young, the noted Australian surgeon who operated on his troublesome knees a couple of months ago, to assess the progress of recovery.

Nat'l Bank v'ball

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Rifles maintained their all-win record in the National Bank Premier Division Volleyball League, beating Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) 3-1 at the outer stadium volleyball court yesterday.

Rifles secured maximum 24 points from eight games, six points ahead of BWDB, who have played one more match.

In the day's other match, Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) beat Azad SC 3-0.

U-13 cricket

UNB, Dhaka

A superball-round performance by Jitu helped Dhaka Cricket Academy beat Basic Cricket Coaching Centre by 14 runs in the Azim Group second under-13 cricket tournament at the Kalabagan Cricket Club ground yesterday.

Jubo School

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Mayor Mijanur Rahman Minu trophies among the winners as the chief guest at a simple ceremony.

The champions also received Tk 25,000 and runners-up got Tk 15,000 each.

Former national team player Shahnewaz Chowdhury Sharuwas present as the special guest.

SCORES IN BRIEF

AL RASHID: 87/10 in 37 overs (Humayun 34, Farhad 11, Ripon 11; Raju 2/19 and Soton 1/7)

JUBO CRICKET SCHOOL: 88/5 in 18 overs (Zubayer not out 35, Farhad 23, Niral 14; Mustakin 4/13, Royal 2/14 and Nayon 2/5)

Result: Jubo Cricket School won by five wickets.

A bowlers

FROM PAGE 13

total: (All out in 78.4 overs) 229

Fall of wickets: 1-37, 2-38, 3-127, 4-179

Bowler O M R W

AKABIR 22 2 76 4

SHAHADAT 16 3 43 3

ENAMUL 16.4 5 30 1

JAMALUDDIN 10 2 31 1

FAISAL 14 4 19 1

BANGLADESHA: Secondinnings

RASHEED run out 1

NAEFES b Panyangara 41

EHSANUL b Maregwed b Mwayenye 20

TUSHAR b Ewing 21

MAZHARUL b Sibanda b Mwayenye 0

FAISAL b Sims b Gripper 40

JAMALUDDIN not out 21

SALIM not out 0

Extras: (lb-1, nb-1, w-10) 12

Total: (For 6wickets in 44 overs) 156

Fall of wickets: 1-13, 2-71, 3-71, 4-76, 5-127

Bowler O M R W

VAAS 24 5 78 3

M'THARAN 38 7 126 1

ZOYESA 23 9 58 1

L'RACHCHI 12 2 33 0

J'SURIYA 5 0 16 0

DILSHAN 1 0 6 0

CRYPTOQUIP

Z N R N A S O P X H S O Y S Y

W M U E N X E M K K P X T

U M I U P T M U Y S N U E D A E S D Y H M

W K M X S R N I Q N K Z Q Y K K E ?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN ELECTRICIANS