

Pak cricketers insured in Ahmedabad

AFP, Ahmedabad

Organisers of a one-day cricket match in a communally-sensitive western Indian city have insured the touring Pakistan team for 445,000 dollars as security cover, officials said on Monday.

India and Pakistan will play the one-day international on April 12 in Ahmedabad, the commercial capital of Gujarat state where at least 2,000 people, mostly Muslims, were hacked, burnt or shot to death in 2002. It followed the death of 59 Hindus in a train carriage fire blamed by state authorities on a Muslim mob.

Pakistan had initially declined to play a five-day Test match in Ahmedabad but later agreed to take part in a one-day after the Board of Control for Cricket in India and local officials guaranteed them high-level security.

Gujarat Cricket Association president Narhari Amin said each of the 16 Pakistan cricketers and support staff will be insured for 22,000 dollars for the two-day duration of their stay in Ahmedabad.

2nd Indo-Pak

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they will bounce back hard."

David, one of the world's leading batsmen, rubbished suggestions the balance of the one-day series had shifted in India's favour after the Cochín win.

"I do not believe in the tag of underdogs or favourites," he said. "That is one thing this game has taught me over the years."

Pakistan vice-captain Younis Khan, who missed Saturday's match due to fever, said he was hopeful of taking the field on Tuesday.

"I practised at the nets today and hope to be fit to play. But a final decision will be taken just before the

match," said Younis, whose 267 and 84 net out helped Pakistan clinch a series-leveiling win in the third Test at Bangalore last week.

Younis said it was too early to predict the outcome of the six-match one-day contest.

"One match does not decide the fate of the series," the Pakistan vice-captain said.

"Even if we lose tomorrow, there would still be a lot left to play for."

Younis hinted that hard-hitting all-rounder Shahid Afridi may be moved back up to the top of the batting order after coming at eight in Cochín.

"Afridi might open but we are not planning any major changes in the side," he said, adding that the presence of many all-rounders in the Pakistan team would give the team the edge over the rivals.

David said the hot weather and stifling humidity in Cochín and Visakhapatnam was a challenge for both teams.

"It is tough playing at this time of the year," he said. "It is a question of how we cope with the heat and humidity and how we manage time both on and off the field to recover in the few days we have."

The remaining matches will be played in Jamshepur (April 9), Ahmedabad (April 12), Kanpur (April 15) and New Delhi (April 17).

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PREVIEW: QUARTERFINALS 1ST LEG Emotion runs high



REUTERS, London

The air will be thick with emotion in Liverpool and Milan this week when the quest to reach the last four of the Champions League gets under way.

The shadow of Heysel hangs over Liverpool's quarter-final first leg meeting with Juventus at Anfield on Tuesday, the first competitive game between the clubs since 39 fans died when a wall collapsed after crowd trouble at the 1985 final in Brussels.

Goodwill gestures are expected off the pitch, while on it Liverpool's injury problems mean Juventus, who last won the Champions League in 1996, will be favoured to prevail.

Juventus are one of three quarter-finalists from Italy, a nation in collective mourning after the death of Pope John Paul on Saturday. No Serie A games were played at the weekend

and the mood among the Italian teams and their fans will be especially sombre.

The other two sides, AC Milan and Inter Milan, meet at the San Siro on Wednesday in an Italian derby that reprises the 2003 semi-final won by eventual champions AC Milan on away goals.

If emotions will be running understandably high in Liverpool and Milan, UEFA will hope they are kept firmly in check in London when ambitious Chelsea tackle German league leaders Bayern Munich, who knocked out Arsenal in the last round.

Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho will sit in the stands having been banned from the touchline for two matches after allegations he made about Swedish referee Anders Frisk in the previous round's thrilling aggregate victory over Barcelona.

Mourinho's ultra-consistent side, 13 points clear at the top of the English Premier League, will be mindful of how well Bundesliga

leaders Bayern stifled Arsenal over both legs in the previous round.

However, Chelsea's outspoken Portuguese coach is well used to the pressure having guided Porto to their Champions League trophy last year.

He will have noted the weekend injuries sustained by Bayern strikers Claudio Pizarro and Roy Makaay that are a serious blow to the Germans' quest for a precocious away goal.

What Olympique Lyon's meeting in France with Dutch side PSV Eindhoven lacks in relative glamour it compensates for with the promise of goals galore.

Ligue 1 leaders Lyon smacked seven past Werder Bremen in their last Champions League match while PSV, like their opponents on Tuesday, are romping away with their domestic league title.

The second legs will be played on April 12 and 13.

Bowyer gets hefty fine



AFP, London

Lee Bowyer has been fined a record 200,000 pounds by Newcastle for his brawl with team-mate Kieron Dyer.

Newcastle officials, who believe midfielder Bowyer was to blame for the punch-up nine minutes from the end of Saturday's clash against Aston Villa at St James Park, confirmed he had been fined six weeks wages.

The 200,000 pounds is the biggest fine a British club has ever imposed on a player.

Newcastle manager Graeme Souness said they had appealed against Dyer's red card in a bid to get him available for the FA Cup semi-final with Manchester United on April 17.

The duo made a public show of shaking hands at the club's training ground on Monday.

"It was all regrettable," said Souness.

"I can assure the fans that we will be focused on trying to do our best between now until the end of the season.

"We have got everything to play for and the important thing is that we put this thing behind us and concentrate on trying to win a trophy for this football club."

Souness insisted the players are talking again and have even laughed about the incident.

"They have been speaking over the weekend and had a laugh about it - they regret it," he told Sky Sports TV.

Newcastle will find out later this week whether Dyer will join Bowyer in being suspended for the next three

domestic games - which include the FACup semi-final.

Souness insisted the club had no plans to sell either player.

Newcastle chairman Freddy Shepherd was scheduled to make a statement about the incident later on Monday.

"You can take it from me, I'm a very angry man. I need to see them face-to-face before making any decision," Shepherd told The Sun.

The flashpoint took place after Dyer failed to pass to an incensed Bowyer, who then waded in with fists flying.

Dyer, 26, appeared to defend himself but seemed to throw at least one punch.

Both players are also facing FA charges.

Marshall law on SL



AFP, Napier

Fledgling Test cricketer Hamish Marshall added a second Test century to his blossoming credentials as New Zealand built a solid base in the first Test against Sri Lanka here Monday.

Marshall, who began the day with an impressive average of 54 from five Tests, was unbeaten on 133 when bad light brought an early end to play with New Zealand on 267 for three.

Nathan Astle was 37 not out, adding an unbroken 80 with Marshall in 17 overs for the fourth wicket.

After a pedestrian first session when New Zealand reached 61 for one off 29 overs, they added 114 off 30 overs in the middle two hours and 82 in the final session before play was called off with six scheduled overs remaining.

Hamish and his identical twin James laid a sound base for the New Zealand innings, coming together after the early dismissal of Craig Cumming and putting on 107 in 140 minutes before James was caught for 52 off the bowling of leg-spinner Upul Chandana.

It was James' highest score in just his third Test innings, and was

scored in 199 minutes off 149 balls, including five fours on the easy wicket.

As the life dried out of the pitch through the day, and the outfield quickened, the Marshall twins scored freely, forcing Marvan Atapattu to turn to his spinners.

But with the pitch offering little turn, Hamish was quick to punish anything off line and his barrage of boundaries including lofting left-arm spinner Rangana Herath for six to reach his 50.

The breakthrough for Sri Lanka came shortly before tea when James played an indifferent prod to a ball from Chandana and gave Thilan Samaraweera an easy catch at slip.

New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming, who won the toss and opted to bat, continued the poor run he suffered during the recent series against Australia.

He looked unsure at the crease and was fortunate to survive two chances before the fiery Lasith Malinga, with his unorthodox sling-shot action, bowled the New Zealand skipper for 16.

For Sri Lanka, Chaminda Vaas, Malinga and Chandana took a wicket each with Malinga ending the day with one for 37 off 14 overs.

Left-arm seamer Vaas, who took a match-winning 10-wicket haul in the previous Test played here in

1995, claimed the only wicket to fall in the morning session when he trapped Cumming leg before wicket for 12.

New Zealand have never won in three Tests at McLean Park, while the 1995 Test was Sri Lanka's first overseas win.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard at stumps on the first day of the first Test between New Zealand and Sri Lanka at Napier on Monday:

NEW ZEALAND: First innings
Cumming lbw b Vaas 12
J Marshall c S'weera b Chandana 52
H Marshall not out 133
Fleming b Malinga 16
Astle not out 37
Extras: (b-4, lb-3, nb-10) 17
Total: (For 3 wks in 84 overs) 267
Fall of wickets: 1-35, 2-142, 3-187
To bat: Vincent, McCullum, Mills, Franklin, Wiseman, Martin

Bowler O M R W
Vaas 18 3 63 1
Malinga 14 4 37 1
Kulasekara 17 5 38 0
Herath 13 2 48 0
Chandana 18 2 61 1
Jayasuriya 3 1 8 0
Dilshan 1 0 5 0

SRI LANKA: Atapattu, Jayasuriya, Sangakkara, Jayawardene, Samaraweera, Dilshan, Chandana, Vaas, Kulasekara, Malinga, Herath.

Windies smell victory



REUTERS, Georgetown

Paceman Pedro Collins took the key wicket of South Africa captain Graeme Smith before the close as the West Indies scented victory on the fourth day of the first Test on Sunday.

South Africa, who followed on 355 runs behind, reached 85 for two in their second innings when bad light ended play three overs early.

Jacques Rudolph was 19 not out with Jacques Kallis on one.

South Africa were dismissed for 188 in their first innings after the West Indies declared their first innings closed on 543 for five declared.

Smith was bowled off his inside edge for 34 by a swinging delivery from Collins 16 overs before the enforced close, ending his careful innings after 142 balls.

The three-man West Indies' pace attack shared nine wickets between them in South Africa's first innings.

Collins took three for 39, Daren Powell claimed three for 61, and Reon King picked up three for 48.

But Collins felt the slow and low Bourda Oval pitch did fast bowlers few favours.

"I wouldn't want to bowl here too often, it's very slow and you don't get much sideways movement," he said.

South Africa resumed their first innings on 130 for six, and they slipped to 158 for seven in the 14th over of the day's play when Nicky Boje was bowled off his pads by a

Umps become sightscreens!

AFP, Napier

Umpires became sightscreens as New Zealand batsmen faced up to Sri Lankan slinger Lasith Malinga for the first time on the opening day of the first cricket Test here Monday.

The 21-year-old firebrand, who only took up cricket four years ago, proved such a handful for the New Zealand batsmen with his unorthodox square-arm delivery, that the umpires came into play for the wrong reasons.

With the ball being fired from in front of the umpires' chests Darrell Hair and Steve Bucknor were asked to remove their navy blue ties so the batsmen could focus.

"There's not many bowlers like that, a bit like Jeff Thomson but even worse, a lot more slinky. It's just a matter of trying to adjust and it takes quite a few balls to get used to," New Zealand centurymaker Hamish Marshall said.

"Nathan (Astle) said he was struggling to pick up the length because he lets it go at eye level so you can't pick it up very quickly."

It was only Malinga's fifth Test after debuting against Australia in Darwin last year where he made an immediate impact with the wickets of Darren Lehmann and Adam Gilchrist in one over.

He had 15 wickets at 28.80 going into the New Zealand series, and was unlucky not to add more than Stephen Fleming's wicket as he ended with one for 37 off 14 overs.

STANCHART CRICKET Miraz Nat'l Bank Public's hero

SPORTS REPORTER

An explosive 142 off 116 balls by Miraz Ahmed helped National Bank Public dump Maple Leaf International by 142 runs in the Standard Chartered Young Tigers National School Cricket Championship yesterday.

Miraz cracked a dozen fours and 11 sixes as National Bank amassed 308-7 before bowling out Maple Leaf for 166 at the Dhanmondi Club ground.

Four other players scored centuries in eight other matches.

Selim's 105 throttled Natun Paltan (166-2) to an eight-wicket win over Blue Bird International (165). Nahidul made 115 in BKSP's (384) massive 269-run drubbing of Paramount (115). Tanveer scored 104 to steer Loreeto (260-6) to a 48-run win over Dhanmondi Tutorial (212) while Shahzada smashed 108 off just 56 deliveries as Tejkunipara (284) dumped Bangladesh International (173) by 111 runs.

In other games, Dhaka Collegiate (116-2) beat Sunnydale (110) by eight wickets, Parjoar Kalindi (100-4) beat Manarat International (97) by six wickets, Cephalon International (209) beat Adhunik Vidyalaya (142) by 67 runs and Shaheed Ramizuddin (222-7) defeated Bangladesh International (217) by three wickets.

Women booters last match today

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Under-17 women's football team will play their last warm-up match in Kolkata today in preparation for the AFC U-17 Women's Football Championship.

The women footballers, who return home tomorrow, lost their first three matches at different venues in West Bengal.

They are scheduled to fly to the Korean capital Seoul in mid-April for the AFC meet.

Partex squash

SPORTS REPORTER

Ram Jagadish and Swapan Parvez won their respective Premier Division matches in the Partex Open squash tournament at the Gulshan Club yesterday.

Jagadish blanked Masud Rana 9-4, 9-5, 9-5, 9-5, 6-3, 6-1 here Sunday and claim the ATP Masters Series title at Key Biscayne.

Federer, the world number one who claimed his fifth title of the year, won his 22nd straight match and extended his 2005 record to an astonishing 32-1, but Nadal made him work every step of the way.

"I really didn't expect to turn it around," admitted Federer after the 3hr 42min marathon.

"I haven't dug out many matches in my career. I'm extremely happy, and exhausted.

"What a pity for him," Federer

Exciting

FROM PAGE 12

I have a target to cement my place in the opening slot and that's why I am prepared to wait my turn. I take this selection as a fantastic opportunity to gain valuable experience.

"I am just excited to be here. It is now my job to prove myself at the highest level," said Nafees who has learned his trade at the Bangladesh Kriya Shikkha Proitshana (BKSP).

Rajshahi ride

FROM PAGE 12

Kapali starred in their comfortable victory at the Sylhet Stadium.

Kapali, who captured three wickets for 53 with his legbreaks to restrict visiting Chittagong to 209-9, scored 56 as the hosts romped home with nearly five overs remaining.

BARISAL-DHAKA
Barisal ended their seven-match losing streak in a thrilling last-over victory against Dhaka at the Barisal Stadium. Chasing 196 for victory, Barisal lost regular wickets before Towhid Hossain's unbeaten 42 and number eight Ali Arman's valuable 20 guided them to the target with three balls to spare.

SCORES IN BRIEF

RAJSHAHI-KHULNA
RAJSHAHI: 285-9 in 50 overs (Reza 64, Anisur 101, Rosel 50, Ashraf 14, extras 28; Russel 3-49, Manjural 3-45, Salahuddin 2-53).

KHULNA: 174 all out in 50 overs (Sajjadul 15, Asadullah 48, Salahuddin 14, Zakir 13, Russel 30 n.o., Ziaur 22; Mushfiq 4-46, Rezwanaul 2-41).
Result: Rajshahi won by 111 runs.

SYLHET-CHITTAGONG
CHITTAGONG: 209-9 in 50 overs (Masum 23, Rabbi 38, Nazim 22, Faisal 36, Dhiman 22, Habib 13 n.o., Wayaskarani 14 n.o., extras 19; Ashiqur 2-35, Hasibul 2-60, Kapali 3-53).

SYLHET: 210-7 in 45.2 overs (Rahman 14, Imtiaz 41, Parvez 24, Kapali 56, Mawla 26, Rezaul 16 n.o., extras 18; Sabbir 3-35).
Result: Sylhet won by three wickets.

BARISAL-DHAKA
DHAKA: 196 all out in 47.5 overs (Mehrab Jr 29, Arafat Sunny 34, Neeayamur 28, Halim 28, Anwar 44, extras 18; Anisur 2-25, Arman 2-37).
BARISAL: 199-7 in 49.3 overs (Imran 22, Bikash 27, Hannan 12, Shahin 22, Nahidul 18, Towhid 42 n.o., Arman 20, extras 27; Sunny 2-44, Masudur 3-17).
Result: Barisal won by three wickets.

PRIMERA LIGA Barca's dramatic draw



AFP, Madrid

Giovanni van Bronckhorst saved Barcelona's blushes by grabbing a late equaliser five minutes into injury time to give the Spanish first division leaders a 3-3 draw with ten-man Real Betis on Sunday.

But the draw meant Barca's lead at the top of the Spanish first division was cut to nine points after Real Madrid later won 2-1 at struggling Albacete with England striker Michael Owen grabbing the winner on the stroke of half-time.

Real Betis winger Joaquin Sanchez showed just why he has been linked with several of Europe's top clubs by scoring two of the visitors' goals.

Both English Premiership leaders Chelsea and Spanish giants Real Madrid have been rumoured to be interested in the 23 year-old Spanish international, who opened the scoring after just 11 minutes.

Joaquin darted down the right wing to connect neatly with a cross from Edu, after the Brazilian's speed had left the Barca rearguard trailing.

However, Barca got back on

level terms four minutes later after Betis defender Diego Rivas felled Deco as the Portuguese international bore down on goal.

Samuel Eto'o stepped up to stroke home the resulting penalty as Rivas walked to the sidelines after being shown a red card.

However, instead of Barca taking control, it was Betis who were inspired and the Seville-based side took the game to the Catalans.

Brazilian international Ricardo Oliveira put Betis ahead again six minutes before the break when he finished off a clever counter-attack with a low shot to the right of Barcelona keeper Victor Valdes.

Joaquin then bagged his second just after the hour before Eto'o gave Barca a glimmer of hope eight minutes from the end of normal time.

Eto'o stepped up to score his second penalty, and 20th goal of the season, despite Betis protests that Belletti had dived rather than been fouled in the box.

Real Madrid were given an early shock after relegation-threatened Albacete took the lead after just eight minutes through Pablo Redondo.

Ivan Helguera's header got Real Madrid back on level terms six

minutes later but it was left to Owen to come to Real's rescue.

Jose Maria 'Guti' Gutierrez raced through the Albacete midfield before laying the ball off to Owen and the England striker coolly put the ball away with a right side-footed shot just before half time to register his 10th league goal of the season.

Espanyol move up to fifth, one place behind Betis, after their 3-1 win at Racing Santander.

All Spanish games on Sunday held a minute's silence before the kick off as a mark of respect for Pope John Paul II.

TOP SIX										
Spanish football league table after Sunday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):										
Barcelona	30	21	6	3	57	21	69			
Real	30	19	3	8	51	26	60			
Villarreal	29	14	8	7	51	27	50			
Betis	30	13	7	5	40	49	49			
Espanyol	30	14	7	9	40	36	49			
Sevilla	30	14	7	9	34	33	49			

Federer's fantastic fightback



AFP, Miami

Swiss superman Roger Federer rallied from two sets to love down to subdue Spanish teenager Rafael Nadal 2-6, 6-7, 7-6, 6-3, 6-1 here Sunday and claim the ATP Masters Series title at Key Biscayne.

Federer, the world number one who claimed his fifth title of the year, won his 22nd straight match and extended his 2005 record to an astonishing 32-1, but Nadal made him work every step of the way.

"I really didn't expect to turn it around," admitted Federer after the 3hr 42min marathon.

"I haven't dug out many matches in my career. I'm extremely happy, and exhausted.

"What a pity for him," Federer

added with a flash of empathy. "But we'll see much more from him I'm sure."

Nadal, appearing in his first Masters Series final and bidding for the first hard court title of his career after four triumphs on clay, broke Federer for a 3-1 lead in the third set.

Federer had a chance to return the favour in the next game, and berated himself when he hit a forehand long.

Federer did break back in the seventh game to narrow the gap to 4-3, and held for 4-4.

Federer had another break opportunity in the ninth game, but Nadal saved it with a winner on his second serve, and when Nadal held his serve for 5-4 the normally mild-mannered Federer slung his racket in disgust.

"I was very disappointed," Federer said.

Despite Federer's obvious frustration, he kept Nadal at bay in the third-

set tiebreaker. The Spaniard led 5-3, but that was as close as he came to a match point as Federer won the next four points to claim the set.

Federer won the fourth set in just 30 minutes, never facing a break point, and in the fifth Nadal looked weary as Federer claimed the last five games of the match.

Federer claimed his second straight title in the Masters Series, after defending his title at Indian Wells, California, earlier this month.

He became the first top seed to win in Miami since Pete Sampras beat Andre Agassi in 1994, and in doing so preserved a winning streak in finals that stretches back to July 2003, when he lost to Jiri Novak in the title match in Gstaad shortly after claiming his first Wimbledon title.

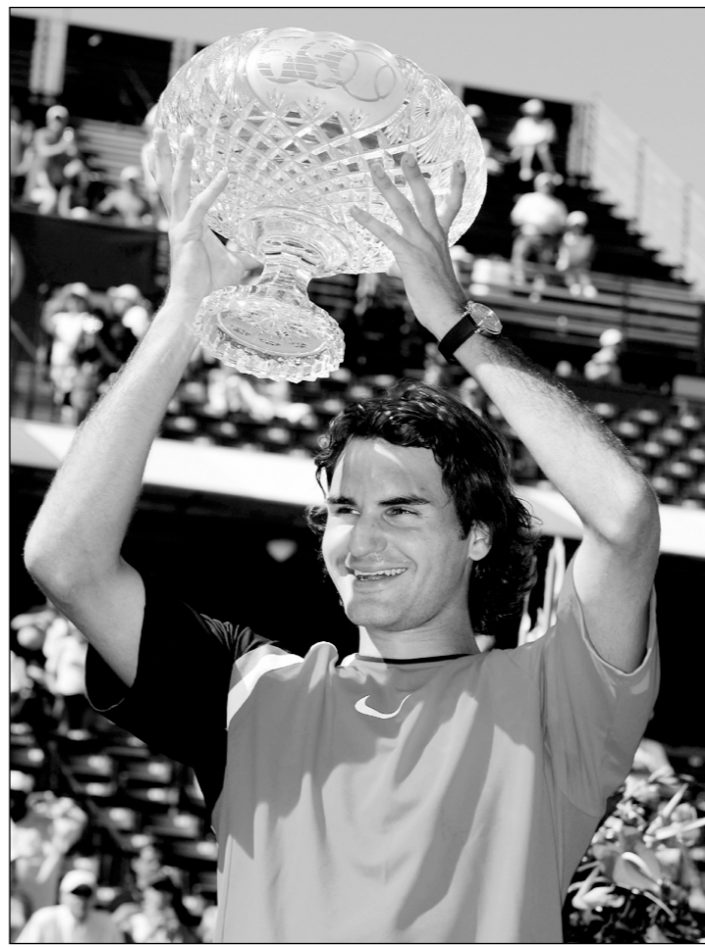


PHOTO: AFP
Roger Federer of Switzerland lifts the trophy after defeating Spain's Rafael Nadal in the men's final of the NASDAQ-100 Open in Key Biscayne, Florida on Sunday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

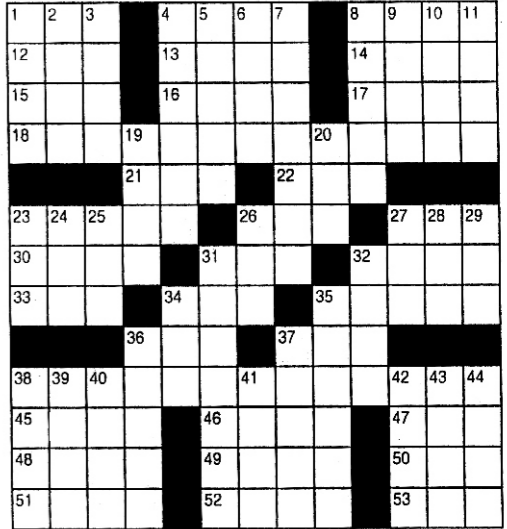
1 Hot tub
4 Got a hole-in-one
8 Cantina order
12 Anderson's "High —"
13 From one end to the other
14 Sports-wear brand
15 Guitar's cousin
16 Bar
17 Miss Gulch's prey
18 Sitcom boy
20 Doctrine
22 — Arbor, Michigan
23 Gall
26 Work unit
27 Turtle-dove tally
30 Emanation
31 Craze
32 Sultor
33 Corral
34 Museum stuff
35 Friars' tribute

DOWN

2 Jab
3 Neighbor-hood
4 Motionless
5 Bracelet attachment
6 Clapton or idle away
7 Unimagi-native one
8 Tennes-see
9 Black Sea
10 Pigeon coop
11 Blood-hound's clue
19 Passport endorsement
20 Chang's closest kin

Solution time: 27 mins.

RAH HEM SCOUT
TRA OLE HORNE
P EN HARLE OULIN
END O LLED
RAYS NEA GENE
HIE HARLE
WREAK BAY
HARPER MAY
GARBUSIA SHAW
HARBINGER RIVE
ULCER AGO RIG
BLAND NED ODE



CRYPTOQUIP
K V D S J H F M S B N M S E S
V K T N Z T N K T M F H Q K F R
Z Y F Q T - V S S M E J D, K N Y Z D
K M Y Z M Z B B S H N F H!
Yesterday's Cryptogram: TO SOME WAGGISH PEOPLE, PRESS CENSORSHIP MIGHT BE DESCRIBED AS WRITER'S CLAMP.
Today's Cryptogram Clue: H equals R
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