

Match for visually impaired on Dec 4

SPORTS REPORTER

National Association of Sports for the Persons with Disability (NASPD) have organised a friendly cricket match at the Dhanmondi Club ground on December 4.

Visually impaired players will take part in the match, to be held with assistance by ActionAid Bangladesh.

Ad hoc committee member of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) and former national player Ishtiaque Ahmed will attend the match as chief guest while former Bangladesh captain Khaled Mahmud will speak on the occasion. Special guest will be National Sports Council (NSC) secretary Aminul Islam and Impact Foundation Bangladesh director and trustee Monsur Ahmed Chowdhury and ActionAid Bangladesh country director Farah Kabir will be present.

NASPD chairman Khandakar Jahurul Alam will chair the programme, which will also have a seminar at 3pm after the completion of the match.

5 to take part in C'wealth chess

SPORTS REPORTER

Five Bangladeshi players will take part in the Commonwealth Chess Championship that begins in New Delhi on Monday.

Grand Masters Niaz Morshed, Reefat Bin Sattar and Abdullah Al Rakib and FIDE Master Aminul Islam and International Woman Master Rani Hamid are the players who will play in the 10-round Swiss League system tournament.

KP loses \$1,000

AFP, Colombo

England batsman Kevin Pietersen has reported losing 1,000 dollars in cash while the team was based at a plush hotel in the Sri Lankan capital, police said on Saturday.

Pietersen, 27, had left the money in his hotel room in Colombo, police officer PT Srisa said.

"The money was in his bag at the time it was reported missing," Srisa told AFP. "Investigations are ongoing and we have recorded statements from the hotel employees."

Mohammedan

FROM PAGE 17
and Major Gen AKM Mujahid Uddin, GOC of Ghatail Cantonment, witnessed the 70-minute game.

TEAMS
MOHAMMEDAN SC: Aminul, Kaiser Hamid (captain), Arif, Biplob, Kamal, Ripon Khan, Sharif, Mintu, Arman Aziz, Farhad, and Alfaz.
TANGAIL XI: Mohammad Ali, Govinda, Yousof, Liton, Olmba, Kabir, Saiful (captain), Tutul (Liton, Bormon) Sabuj, Auran, and Dilu Hassan.

Siddons debuts

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the ongoing National Cricket League (NCL).

Siddons however was not worried with it as he is looking forward to capitalise the opportunities to themaximum.

"I'm not worried because we have twenty days and four or five build-up games in our hand before the start of the series. I think everything will be okay," said a confident Siddons who expressed his unwillingness to talk on the tour right now.

Since he has arrived in the capital few days back, the eighth foreign coach of the cricket team watched two days of NCL action in Khulna and Fatullah.

"So far I have not seen all the players and only watched some of the guys in a match. I am very happy with the progress of the boys who has been selected for the one-day team because some of the batsmen have scored runs and bowlers took wickets which is good," he added.

"Overall, the infrastructure is also fantastic and I am really looking forward to seeing the players get the most out of the facilities available here," he said by praising the pitch at Fatullah.

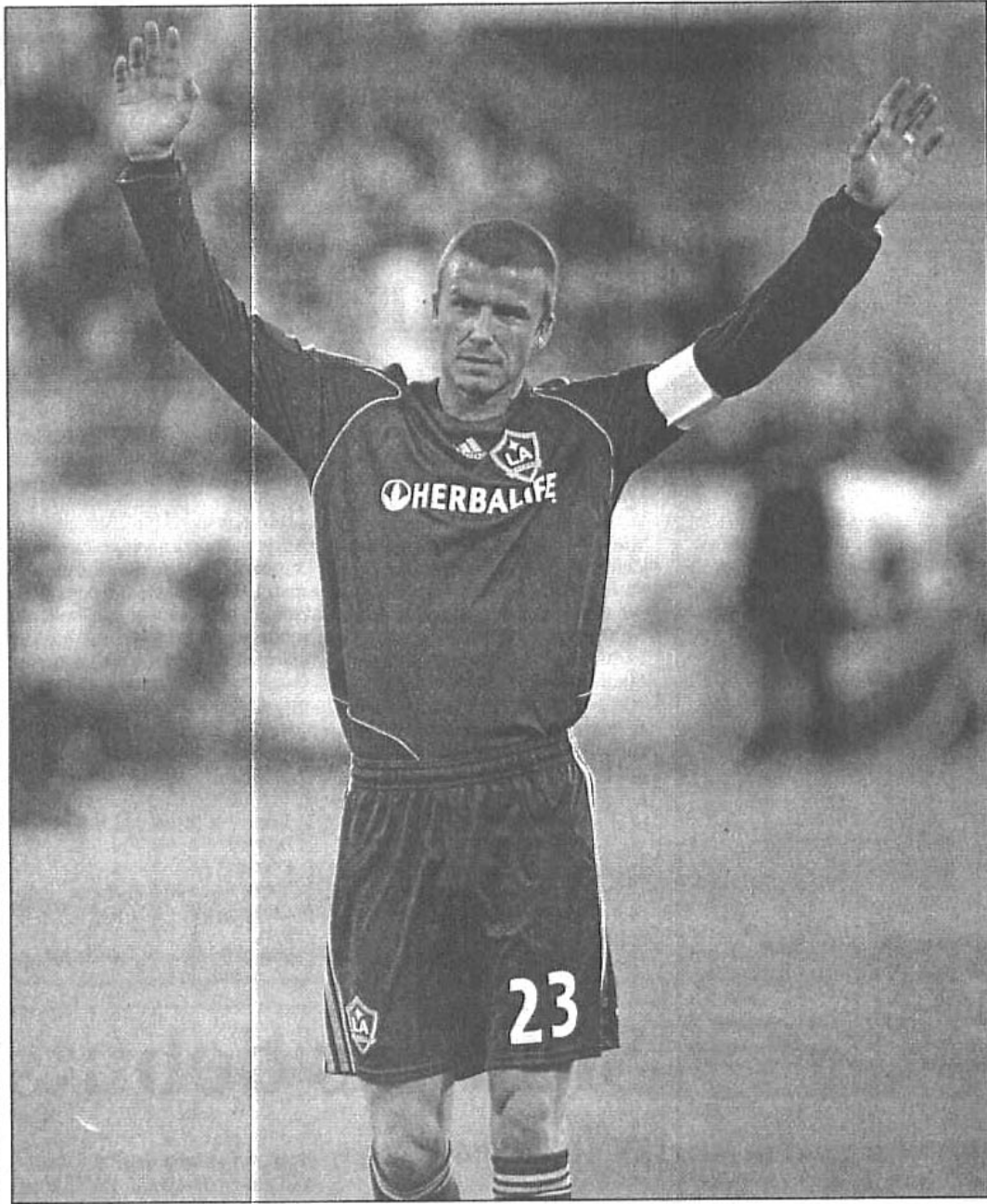
CL Format

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agreed on.

Instead there will be a two-round preliminary phase comprising 15 clubs fighting for five group berths.

Platini said the new plans would mean countries such as Romania or Albania would be able to benefit from money from Champions League television rights meaning they could hang on to their best players.

"Certain people have said allowing smaller nations in would weaken the competition," Platini added. "Perhaps that will be so in the early years but after that the difference will be less and less."



LA Galaxy star David Beckham laps up the crowd applause after a vintage performance in their victory over Wellington Phoenix at the Westpac Stadium in Wellington on Saturday.

Kiwis dance to Becks tune

Football

AFP, Wellington

Superstar David Beckham thrilled a record New Zealand football crowd by scoring as the Los Angeles Galaxy beat the Wellington Phoenix 4-1 in a friendly match here Saturday.

A penalty awarded when a Phoenix defender allegedly chopped down a Galaxy player in the box was questionable and a howl went up from the crowd when it was given.

But the jeers turned to cheers when Beckham stepped up and blasted the spot kick high into the net for the Galaxy's final goal.

"I was surprised. I'm not the penalty taker but (striker) Landon (Donovan) told me to have it and I was happy to," he said later. "I struck it pretty well."

Beckham said it was good for the Galaxy to end their two-match

tour Down Under on a winning note, following a 5-3 loss to Sydney on Tuesday.

"We played the ball around well and enjoyed it," he said. But the result did not mean much to the crowd, who just wanted to be able to say they saw their hero in the flesh.

The decibel level rose every time the 32-year-old England star touched the ball, even though the bulk of the 31,853 crowd -- a New Zealand record for a football match -- were nominally supporting the home team.

But the celebrity and fashion icon did not get the chance to launch one of his trademark "Bend it like Beckham" free kicks.

Beckham remained on the field for the whole match and received the biggest ovation of the night when he removed his shirt and handed it to Phoenix skipper Ross Aloisi.

The former Manchester United and Real Madrid star showed his class with deft touches and pin-

point long balls, showing vision and composure others on the field could not match.

The Phoenix were outclassed in the end, despite opening the scoring with a goal by Aloisi in the 12th minute.

The Galaxy hit back within five minutes thanks to Clint Mathis and Donovan ensured a 2-1 half-time advantage for the US team with a goal a minute from the break.

Carlos Pavon extended the lead seven minutes into the second spell, leaving Beckham to complete the scoring.

Beckham leaves New Zealand Sunday, having achieved his goal of lifting the profile of football in the rugby stronghold of New Zealand, home of the All Blacks.

He was greeted by around 1,000 fans at Wellington airport on Thursday and about 15,000 screaming school children -- and a large number of mothers and a few grandmothers -- turned up at the stadium the following day to watch him train.

Extras: (lb-8, nb-2) 10
Total (All out in 59.4 overs) 188
Fall of wickets: 1-11, 2-29, 3-40, 4-42, 5-42, 6-148, 7-180, 8-182, 9-186

Bowler O M R W
Sidebottom 15 1 58 1
Hoggard 14 3 29 4
Anderson 15.4 3 39 1
Bopara 1 0 8 0
Panesar 14 4 46 3

ENGLAND: First innings
Cook lbw b Vaas 0
Vaughan not out 13
Bell not out 36
Total: (For one wicket in 17 overs) 49

SRI LANKA: First innings
Vandort c Vaughan b Hoggard 8
Jayasuriya c Pietersen b Sidebottom 10
Sangakkara c Collingwood b Anderson 92
Mahela c Prior b Hoggard 1
C Silva c Prior b Hoggard 2
Mubarak c Prior b Hoggard 0
P Jayawardene c Cook b Panesar 51
Vaas b Panesar 12
Fernando c Vaughan b Panesar 0
Malinga not out 1
Muralidaran run out 1

Fall of wicket: 1-0
To bat: Pietersen, Collingwood, Bopara, Prior, Sidebottom, Hoggard, Anderson, Panesar

Bowler O M R W
Vaas 7 3 18 1
Malinga 5 1 20 0
Muralidaran 3 2 2 0
Jayasuriya 2 0 9 0
Toss: Sri Lanka
Umpires: Aleem Dar and Asad Rauf.

Rajshahi widen gap

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In reply, Rajshahi lost their opener Jahurul Islam cheaply but Farhad Hossain and Rabiul Karim shared 90 for the second wicket to give the foundation for an easy win.

Rabiul contributed 54 off 90 balls that featured four boundaries while Nayeem Islam struck unbeaten 52 off 49 balls with the help of four boundaries as well.

Alok took two wickets for 36.

BARISAL-CHITTAGONG
Despite Nazimuddin's blazing knock, Barisal defended their huge total of 289-5, built around four half centuries from Imran Ahmed (50), Rokibul Hasan (56), Kamrul Islam (78) and Arafat Salahuddin (68), who smashed five sixes and two fours.

The game was all but over when Chittagong lost four wickets for 50 but Nazimuddin and captain

Ehsanul Haq revived hopes by associating 138 runs for the fifth wicket.

Run outs of Ehsanul, who hit a 72-ball 57, and Faisal Hossain, however dashed the home team's hopes of chasing down the total.

Barisal left-arm spinner Tarikul Islam played the vital role behind their victory by taking three wickets including the scalp of Nazimuddin who smote eleven fours and two sixes to make a 68-ball 84.

BRIEF SCORES

BARISAL: 289 for 5 in 50 overs (Kamrul 78 not out, Arafat Salahuddin 68, Roqibul 56, Imran 50; Kamrul 2-65, Ehsanul 2-46)
CHITTAGONG: 274 all out in 47.5 overs (Nazimuddin 84, Ehsanul 57, Faisal Hossain 45; Talha 2-73, Sajidul 3-52, Tarikul 3-38)

Result: Barisal won by 15 runs

Man-of-the-match: Roqibul

Hassan (Barisal)
SYLHET: 206 all out in 49.3 overs (Alok 69, Rajin 31, Mabud 26, Ezaz 24; Farhad Hossain 5-16, Delwar 2-23, Mahbulul 2-27)

RAJSHAHI: 209 for four in 46.5 overs (Roqibul 54, Farhad Hossain 41, Naeem 52 not out, Mushfiqur Rahman 40 not out; Alok 2-36)

Result: Rajshahi won by six wickets

Man-of-the-match: Farhad Hossain (Rajshahi)

KHULNA: 125 all out in 37.2 overs (Razzak 39, Mostafizur 17; Robin 4-34, Niaz 2-39)

DHAKA: 126 for two in 33.2 overs (Shuvo 53 not out, Al Shahrar 35 not out, Mehrab Sr. 22; Razzak 2-24)

Result: Dhaka won by eight wickets

Man-of-the-match: Mahbulul Alam (Dhaka)

Coach defends Akhtar

CRICINFO, undated

Sourav Ganguly and Geoff Lawson, the Pakistan coach, in different ways defended the decision to play Shoaib Akhtar during the press conferences at the end of the second day.

When a reporter put it to Lawson that Shoaib was bowling at about 70 mph, Lawson reacted sharply. "That's his slower ball. Excuse me, do you watch the game? He bowled at 130 kmph. The guy is ill. We had a tough choice to make yesterday with the replacement (Yasir Arafat) not at the ground yet and we had to make that decision in five minutes. We decided to go with Shoaib and he was keen to play. We got 24 overs out of him," said Lawson.

"Of course we'd have liked him fully fit. But how do you think he'd have gone (fully fit) on that batting pitch anyway? He might have got a couple of wickets. We haven't got hindsight. To suggest that he's bowling only 100-110 kmph, you're not watching the game. When we have a choice of whether to play Shoaib or someone who is just getting off a plane, it's a tricky decision to make."

Ganguly, for his part, said, "On Friday he was unwell but today (Saturday) I thought he bowled quick. You have to give it to him. He's been in hospital for two days and wasn't very well but he stood up for the country and turned out to play. He could have easily said 'I'm not playing' but that would have made the attack even weaker. He's Pakistan's best bowler."

Chennai win by six runs

CRICINFO, Undated

The Chennai duo of R Sathish and V Saravanan blasted 44 runs in 4.4 overs to boost the Superstars before Shabbir Ahmed and Ian Harvey, two international imports, sealed the six-run win against Kolkata Tigers.

The second Twenty20 game of the ICL followed a similar pattern to the first and came down to a tight final-over finish.

Eklak Ahmid's two early wickets but a steady partnership backed up Craig McMillan's decision to field between Stuart Law and Russel Arnold set up the total. The Superstars were in trouble when both fell in quick succession, followed by Hemang Badani falling to a lame chip shot, but Sathish and Saravanan showed their value at the death. Both cracked a couple of sixes apiece to boost the total to 140 in the last four overs.

The Kolkata Tigers' chase suffered some early hiccups, with Shabbir striking two early blows, but the Subhomoy Das and McMillan led the recovery. Abhishek Jhunjhunwala, with a fiery 21-ball 30, showed why he's rated so highly in domestic circles but the Tigers were constantly behind the run-rate. D Tamil Kumaran, the medium-pacer, extracted good bounce from the surface -- his two important wickets pegged the Tigers back further -- and the Superstars could then rely on Harvey's slower balls to wrap up the match.

Just like Friday, the fielding standards were outstanding. Jhunjhunwala risked a serious injury when he dived on the rough patch at short fine leg, latching on to a chip from Arnold, and Lance Klusener timed his jump perfectly to complete a one-handed take off Badani. Hemanth Kumar's superbly-judged take at long-off, when he held on to one heading for six, ended Das' innings and Sathish made several stunning stops at point.

Expectedly, the turnout wasn't as impressive as last night. Barely 1,000 landed up to watch the game, one which also saw film star Yana Gupta perform during the break.

Kirsten deal almost done

REUTERS, Kolkata

South African Gary Kirsten is almost certain to take over as India coach but a formal announcement could take another week, a senior board official said on Saturday.

"His appointment is more or less confirmed," board secretary Niranjan Shah told reporters after a meeting of office-bearers.

"It will take another eight days to announce. Some nitty-gritty issues have to be finalised."

The former South Africa opening batsman emerged the favourite for the job after the board's special coach committee interviewed him on Monday.

Kirsten, 40, has said in media interviews he was ready to take over and the Indian board, keen to fill the post before the Australia tour starting later this month, have also expressed satisfaction with his interview.

India have searched for a successor to former Australia skipper Greg Chappell, who quit in March following the team's shock first round elimination in the one-day World Cup.

NZ win at last

Cricket

AFP, Port Elizabeth

Brendon McCullum and Jamie How pounded the South African bowlers as New Zealand ended a losing streak with an emphatic seven-wicket victory in the second one-day international at St George's Park Friday.

McCullum (81) and How (76) put on 154 for the second wicket as New Zealand cruised in with 11.2 overs to spare to level the three-match series. The deciding match will be in Cape Town Sunday.

New Zealand's win followed heavy defeats in two Tests and losses in a Twenty20 international and the first one-day international.

"It was a pretty good performance," said New Zealand captain Daniel Vettori. "I don't think there was any area where we didn't go a very good job. It was a pretty good wicket and South Africa will be disappointed with the total they put up. It was a testament to the way we bowled."

Vettori said the win would give his team confidence going into the decider. "We haven't won too many games in South Africa but it doesn't mean much unless we go on to win the series."

The Black Caps dominated most of the match, reducing South Africa to 66 for five after South African captain Graeme Smith won the toss and decided to bat.

All-rounder Shaun Pollock and wicketkeeper Mark Boucher added 89 for the sixth wicket to enable South Africa to make 209 for nine.

Boucher, speaking on behalf of

South Africa after Smith left the field with a hand injury suffered while fielding, said his team had no excuses: "We were behind the eight ball from the first over Friday."

New Zealand lost Lou Vincent to a run-out with only nine runs scored but McCullum and How made the target look easy. They shared the man-of-the-match award.

McCullum was in particularly good form as he hammered 81 off 85 balls with nine fours and a six before being run out by a good throw from deep cover by substitute fielder Dale Steyn while attempting a second run.

McCullum was aggressive from the start of his innings and How was the ideal foil, playing solidly but picking off loose deliveries to make his runs off 106 balls with 11 boundaries. It was the second successive impressive knock by How, who made a career-best 90 in the first match in Durban.

New Zealand produced their best bowling and fielding performance of a disappointing tour before Pollock (52) and Boucher (48) rebuilt the innings, starting their stand slowly but increasing the scoring rate after they played themselves in.

Tail-ender Andre Nel, who scored nine runs off the last three balls of the match as South Africa squeezed a two-wicket win in Durban, gave the innings late impetus when he hit a six and two fours off the 49th over, bowled by Mills.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the second one-day international between South Africa and New Zealand at St George's Park in Port Elizabeth on Friday:

SOUTH AFRICA

Gibbs c Styris b Mills	0
Smith c Taylor b Mills	0
Kallis c Taylor b Oram	26
A de Villiers b Gillespie	8
Duminy c Vincent b Patel	23
Boucher c Patel b Vettori	48
Pollock b Gillespie	52
Morkel b Gillespie	6
Botha c Vincent b Mills	8
Nel not out	30
Langeveldt not out	2
Extras: (nb-1, w-5)	6
Total: (For 9 wks in 50 overs)	209
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-5, 3-20, 4-53, 5-66, 6-155, 7-167, 8-176	
Bowler O M R W	
Mills	8 1 43 3
Gillespie	10 1 55 3
Oram	10 1 31 1
Patel	10 0 39 1
Vettori	10 1 29 1
Styris	2 0 12 0

NEW ZEALAND	
Vincent run out	9
McCullum run out	81
How lbw b Langeveldt	76
Styris not out	24
Taylor not out	13
Extras: (lb-3, w-4)	7
Total: (For 3 wks in 38.4 overs)	210
Fall of wickets: 1-9, 2-163, 3-190	
Did not bat: Sinclair, Oram, Vettori, Mills, Patel, Gillespie	
Bowler O M R W	
Pollock	9 0 29 0
Nel	8 0 66 0
Langeveldt	8 0 40 1
Morkel	6 0 38 0
Botha	7.4 0 34 1

Result: New Zealand won by seven wickets.
Men-of-the-match: Jamie How and Brendon McCullum.
Umpires: Mark Benson and Marais Erasmus.

India erect a mountain

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follow-on (417 runs). It is a challenge and the guys are geared up to take the challenge. That is what Test cricket is all about," said Pakistani coach Geoff Lawson.

"We bowled poorly on occasions and well on other occasions. This pitch is a batting paradise. The pitch is playing well and it is up to us to play well on this pitch. We are confident we can do it (avoid a follow-on)."

India made the most of ideal batting conditions, with Ganguly and Laxman demolishing the Pakistani attack with their exciting strokeplay during a 163-run stand for the fifth wicket.

Jaffer, 192 overnight, reached his double-hundred in the morning's second over, when he drove Akhtar through the covers and then steered him past gully for two fours.

He was just 10 short of his career-best 212, made against the West Indies in Antigua last year, when he edged Sohail Tanvir's first delivery to Akmal. He struck 34

fours in his 274-ball knock. Runs flowed from both the ends as Laxman and Ganguly dominated the Pakistani attack in the afternoon session. Laxman hit 15 fours and Ganguly 14.

Ganguly looked in trouble just once, when he offered a difficult chance while fending off a rising delivery from Akhtar, the ball flying past a diving Hameed at gully for a boundary.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the second day of the second Test between India and Pakistan at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata on Saturday:

INDIA: First innings (overnight 352-3)
Jaffer c Akmal b Tanvir 202
Karthik c Younis b Tanvir 1
Dravid c Akmal b Kaneria 50
Tendulkar b Kaneria 82
Ganguly c Tanvir b Butt 102
Laxman not out 112
Dhoni not out 50
Extras: (b-8, lb-5, nb-3, w-1) 17
Total: (For 5 wks in 152.5

overs decl) 616
Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-138, 3-313, 4-375, 5-538
Did not bat: Kumble, Harbhajan, Zaheer, Patel

Bowler O M R W	
Akhtar	24 2 84 0
Tanvir	39 6 166 2
Sami	29 2 99 0
Kaneria	50 7 194 2
Hameed	4 0 24 0
Butt	6.5 0 36 1

PAKISTAN: First innings
Butt not out 26
Hameed lbw b Kumble 21
Younis not out 3
Total: (For 1 wicket in 16 overs) 50

Fall of wicket: 1-38
To bat: Yousof, Iqbal, Misbah, Akmal, Akhtar, Sami, Tanvir, Kaneria

Bowler O M R W	
Zaheer	1.2 0 2 0
Patel	3 0 22 0
Harbhajan	6.4 2 14 0
Kumble	5 1 12 1



PHOTO: COURTESY

Winners of the Savar leg of the banglalink Pro-Am golf circuit pose with their trophies during the closing ceremony at the Savar Golf Club on Friday. Maj Gen Ashab Uddin presided as Chief Guest while the closing ceremony was also attended by banglalink director of marketing, Omer Rashid. The Pro-Am Golf Circuit aims to bring together both professional and amateur players and the circuit continues with the Kurmitola leg from December 3.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	37 Shoe with	1 Left-	president
1 Svelte	38 Listener	overs	22 Overact
5 Portrayal	39 Wild and	recipe	24 Buck-
9 Experi-	crazy	2 Wealth	wheat
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12 Actress	44 Freeway	3 Rainbow	25 Upper
Spelling	48 Eventual	4 Massa-	limit
13 Commo-	49 Building	chusats	26 The
14 Exploit	50 Eastern	5 White	whole
15 Tend	51 — de	6 Blood-	thing
16 Tents	52 Top of the	7 Blot	27 Norma
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18 Gaffer's	54 Lamb's	9 Hum-	35 Coward
19 Batman	mama	dinger	36 Calls a
19 Rage	55 Over-	10 "Yah,	hall to
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