

BFF gathers Tk 1m for Sidr victims

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) earned over Tk 10 lakhs from the best of three charity series between archrivals Mohammedan and Abahani.

BFF received Tk 7.5 lakhs as gate money besides the series sponsors' Tk 3 lakhs.

"The amount is not satisfactory because we had more expectations when we arranged the matches to help the Sidr victims," said BFF acting general secretary Manzoor Hossain Malu.

Mohammedan won the series 2-1.

Sainu slams four

UNB, Dhaka

Sainu Pru struck four goals as Rangamati drubbed Shariatpur 8-0 to make a flying start in the second inter-district women's football competition at the Dhanmudi Women's Sports Complex yesterday.

Sainu netted in the 3rd, 8th, 12th and 35th minutes while Joya struck twice in the 6th and 46th minutes besides Nunal and Rina's one goal apiece in the 33rd and 40th minutes respectively.

In the day's other match, Rangpur outplayed Pabna 7-0 while Khagrachhari beat Satkhira 2-0 at the same venue.

BAF, Josephites win easily

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Air Force and Josephites' Club won their respective matches in the Total Victory Day basketball tournament that began at the Shaheed Suhrawardi Indoor Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

BAF outplayed Eagles 72-22 and Josephites crushed Bangladesh Police 107-40.

Sports Adviser Tapan Chowdhury inaugurated the meet where nine teams are split into two groups.

Galle row returns

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's tsunami-hit cricket stadium at Galle was once again embroiled in a heritage row Sunday as it prepared to host the third and final Test against England next week.

The new pavilion at the picturesque Galle International Stadium must be demolished after the match which begins on December 18, a press report quoted Urban Development Minister Dinesh Gunawardena as saying.

"I got cabinet approval to demolish the building once the Test match is over," the minister told the Colombo-based Sunday Times newspaper, as its new construction was not in line with heritage guidelines.

Ton to help

FROM PAGE 17

Khan and Munaf Patel.

"It's a great feeling to get the new ball again (in Tests), no matter what the circumstances -- injuries (to others) and everything, I was pretty happy bowling the nine overs, looking very good and feeling very good," Pathan said.

The 23-year-old's confidence ebbed when he was sent home from South Africa last December and did not make the starting XI at this year's one-day World Cup, where India made a first-round exit.

Pathan staged a comeback into the one-day team following a successful run in the Twenty20 format where he was part of the squad that won the inaugural World Cup in South Africa.

Fahim hails

FROM PAGE 17

Australia and England."

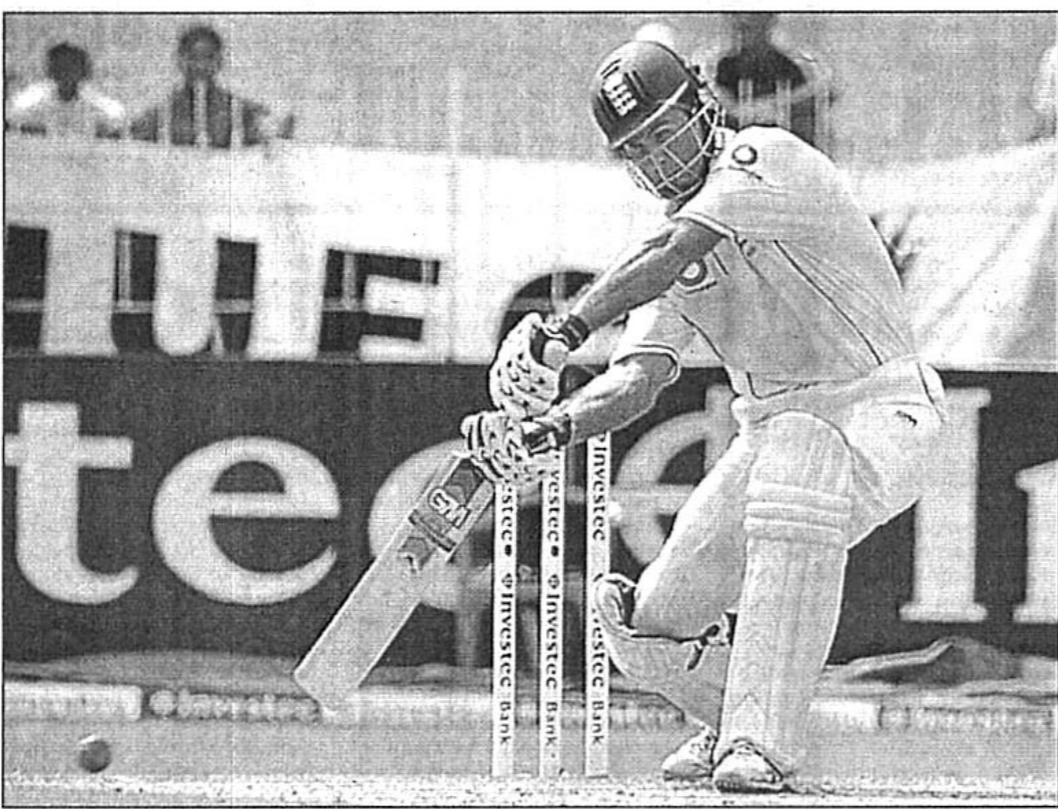
He pointed out that though it was a newly compiled side, they showed spirit through performance and almost everyone contributed.

"Someone or the other stood up. But I think (Suhrawardi) Shuvo, Doliar (Mahmud), Mahmudul (Hasan) and Nasir Hossain all were impressive. Rony (Talukdar) hit a hundred but did not click in the one-dayers. Mithun Ali, the wicketkeeper, kept well and scored a few vital runs at times," said the grey-haired head coach of the youth side.

He was also quite happy with Marshall Ayub, who scored a vital 88 in the pivotal fourth match, in which the young Tigers won by 13 runs.

"There was a consistent pattern and not flashes of brilliance. One must also consider that this is a new side."

"Shuvo took his time and then picked up on his captaincy. There was rapid improvement to be seen," concluded Fahim.



England captain Michael Vaughan drives the ball during his fine knock of 87 on the opening day of the second Test against Sri Lanka at the SSC ground in Colombo yesterday.

England lose way

FROM PAGE 17

Harper once again raised his finger.

Left-handed Cook, who returned to form after being dismissed for zero and four in the Kandy Test, was unfortunate to be declared leg-before by Harper off Malinga bowling with the second newball.

Replays indicated the ball would have missed leg stump and loud jeers rang out from 3,000 travelling English supporters who outnumbered local fans.

Malinga then yorked Ravi Bopara first ball to make England 237-5 before Collingwood and Prior saw out the day.

England had made two changes from the Kandy Test, leaving out injured fast bowler Matthew Hoggard and fellow seamer James Anderson. They were replaced by Steve Harmison and debutant Stuart Broad.

Sri Lanka recalled 22-year-old opener Upul Tharanga in place of Sanath Jayasuriya, who announced his retirement from Test cricket after the Kandy match.

The unidentified male streaker halted play briefly when he sprinted in from the stand next to the Press Box just as Muralidaran was about to bowl to Collingwood.

He took two cartwheels on the

field as bemused fans and players looked on, before returning to the stand where local police were waiting to escort him out of the ground.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the first day of the second Test between England and Sri Lanka at the Sinhalese Sports Club on Sunday:

ENGLAND: First innings

Cook lbw b Malinga 81

Vaughan c Mubarak b Muralidaran 87

Bell c Mubarak b Muralidaran 15

Pietersen c Sangakkara b Vaas 1

Collingwood not out 49

Bopara b Malinga 0

Prior not out 10

Extras: (b-8, nb-7) 15

Total: (For five wickets in 87 overs) 258

To bat: Sidebottom, Harmison, Broad, Panesar.

Ball of wickets: 1-133, 2-168, 3-171, 4-237, 5-237.

Bowler

Vaas 23 5 49 1

Malinga 14 1 57 2

Fernando 16 2 59 0

Muralidaran 34 5 85 2

Toss: England

Umpires: Aleem Dar (PAK) and Daryl Harper (AUS)

TV umpire: Gamini Silva (SRI)

Match referee: Jeff Crowe (NZL)

Captain doubts KP dismissal

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Michael Vaughan says the third umpire should have been consulted over the controversial catch that ended Kevin Pietersen's innings on the opening day of the second Test in Colombo on Sunday.

Pietersen edged his fifth delivery low to slip where Chamara Silva dived to his left and parried the ball up behind him allowing Kumar Sangakkara to hold the rebound.

There was no doubt about Sangakkara's catch, but the problems arose around Silva's initial take with replays showing the ball may have been grounded.

When the catch was completed Pietersen stood his ground as Daryl Harper and Aleem Dar, the umpires, conferred before Harper, the bowling end umpire, gave the decision. However, part way off the field Pietersen saw the dismissal on the big screen and halted, but the decision couldn't be overturned.

"I really do think common sense should prevail, you have got the technology and you are allowed to use it," Vaughan told Ten Sports after play. "It's very difficult to be

100 per cent sure all the time if a catch has carried."

Pietersen was involved in a similar incident earlier this year during the opening Test against India at Lord's. On that occasion he edged Zaheer Khan low to Mahendra Singh Dhoni, who claimed the catch, and Pietersen was given out. However, when the replay came up on the big screen Pietersen waited and the square-leg umpire intervened. The decision was overturned after and Pietersen continued his innings.

"We had a similar instance of that at Lord's last year when Kevin was given out, they saw the screen and they changed their opinion," added Vaughan. "It always seems to be Kevin out there. Common sense should have prevailed and I'm sure the umpires will feel exactly that way now."

The difference between the two incidents is that at Lord's there wasn't an original agreement between the umpires on Dhoni's catch. Simon Taufel gave it immediately. However, in Colombo the umpires conferred before deciding Pietersen was out and the Laws state that the third official can only be used if the view of the on-field umpires is obstructed.

'Sledging no worry'

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Sourav Ganguly says India will have extra motivation in their four-Test series against Australia because it will be the last trip to the country for several of the squad's veterans.

With his career's first double-century under his belt, Ganguly said the tensions between the two sides during their recent ODI series in India were in the past and India would not be intimidated when the Tests begin on Boxing Day.

Ganguly, 35, is looking forward to what will almost certainly be his last Test tour of Australia. It might also be the final visit for Sachin Tendulkar, 34; Rahul Dravid, 34; VVS Laxman, 33; and the captain Anil Kumble, 37.

"This is motivation. A number

of guys will not be back to Australia, so we want to play good cricket," Ganguly told the Sunday Telegraph. "The challenge for us is handling the Australian conditions."

"We have not been so good away from home but we have been a lot more consistent in the past couple of years and that has given us confidence. It's important we start well. If we can win in Melbourne, that will give us some good momentum."

Ganguly and India are in good form at the moment -- India are 1-0 up in their Test series against Pakistan and Ganguly has scored two centuries. But he said succeeding in Australia was a very different prospect from playing well at home.

"Winning in Australia is always difficult but we are confident," he said. "This is probably the most experienced Indian team to come

Place a bid to face Murali

CRICINFO, undated

Sri Lanka's legendary off-spinner Muttiah Muralidaran is offering his fans the opportunity to bid on eBay for the chance to face him.

The charity auction, at ebay.co.in, ends on December 11, and all the funds raised will go to Muralidaran's own charity, the Foundation of Goodness which was set-up in 2004 following the tsunami which devastated the country.

The highest bidder will face ten deliveries from Muralidaran on December 16 at the Seenigama Oval in Galle.

Ash expects

FROM PAGE 17

"Team like India even struggled in New Zealand but we have a good opportunity to acclimatise with the conditions as there are three warm-up matches and a charity Twenty20 game before the series," he said adding that their practice in a simulated condition would be of great help.

Understandably, Bangladesh's first visit six years back was not a happy one as they suffered innings defeat in both Tests and their home series against the same opponents was also no different. But this time Ashraful hopes of something better.

"We didn't have much experience then but now we've already played 49 Tests and that's why I believe you will see some improvement," he hoped.

The 43-year-old Siddons however was not ready to look back at what happened in the past rather he wants to make a fresh start in his first assignment as a full coach.

"I've no recollection of the tour in 2001. I can compare my players with their present stature only. I am just looking for them to play good cricket as well as they can. I think my players will give their best, and most importantly we can improve throughout the tour," he said.

"We haven't had a lot of time to prepare. I have just got into Bangladesh and I won't be expecting massive improvement overnight. The important thing is that the players had good preparations in the national league and the (practice) camp," Siddons said adding that his unique practice session would help the boys to do a little better.

Siddons was also not ready to single out any individual player. "I think, there are a lot of special players. My job is to prepare all the players, not one or two only. What we look for in the players is to be consistent, to become a good player at international level."

With the tour, Bangladesh will finish a year as well as enter into a new calendar and under a new coach it's an opportunity for Ashraful's men to take something from the trip to make a fresh start ahead of their busy schedule in 2008.

Fifth ODI rained off

AFP, Harare

The fifth and final one-day international tour match between Zimbabwe and West Indies at Queens Sports Club here on Sunday has fallen victim to rain.

Umpires Brian Jerling and Kevin Barbour decided at 1415 local time that there was no prospect of a result, even if the weather cleared up.

It left West Indies with a 3-1 series victory and one no-result for the record books.

Man of the series was named as Jerome Taylor after the judges adjudged him to be a double match-winner.

West Indies will now move across the Limpopo River border to South Africa where they will face one of the world's best cricket countries in five one-day internationals and three Tests through December and January.

The 3-1 series win against Zimbabwe was below expectations for the visitors who had set out for a decisive clean sweep of an inexperienced local outfit who are not even allowed to play Tests.

The tourists went down to a shock defeat in the first encounter of the series, played at Harare.

Other negative factors were the temporary losses through injury of key batsmen Chris Gayle and Shivnarine Chanderpaul. Dwayne Bravo took over the captaincy from Gayle and filled the position well.

Yuvraj and Sourav Ganguly, for whom no praise can be too high, did for India what Rahul Dravid and VVS Laxman have long been renowned for doing, but it will be no discredit to Ganguly to say Yuvraj's brilliance shaded his second successive hundred. Not that he would have grudgingly let a white eye shine brighter when he celebrated his teammate's century than when he reached his own. No one present at the ground, even his opponents, could stay untouched by the breathtaking majesty of his innings.

At lunch, Indian would have felt a touch despondent. They had won the toss and chosen to bat knowing that the pitch, which had been under covers for the best part of the last few days, would be soft and offer seam movement. But given their reliance on spin, in the absence of a full-strength pace bowling attack, it was the only option available. Pakistan's bowlers wasted the first hour somewhat by either spraying

First streaker in Lankan history

AFP, Colombo

A male streaker ran on the field on the opening day of the second cricket Test between England and Sri Lanka on Sunday, forcing play to be halted for three minutes.

The unidentified man, part of the nearly 3,000-strong band of travelling England supporters, sprinted from the stand next to the Press Box just as Muttiah Muralidaran was about to bowl to Paul Collingwood.

He took two cartwheels on the field as bemused fans and players looked on, before returning to the stand where local police were waiting to escort him out of the Sinhalese Sports Club.

England, looking for a series-leveling win after losing the first Test in Kandy, were at that stage 197-3 in the post-tea session.

Local journalists said it was the first instance of a streaker appearing at a cricket match in Sri Lanka.

Asgar Ali took solo lead in the eighth Special National Chess Tournament by winning the sixth round game against Kamal Hossain at the chess federation hall room yesterday.

Asgar secured maximum six points while Kamal, Abid Hossain, Ferdous Hasan, Nazmul Monir and Ranand Mir Hossain followed him with five points each.

In the day's other matches, Monir beat Shahin, Abid beat Toffazal, Ferdous beat Sohail, Nazmul beat Habib and Mir beat Rajon.

Germany lift

FROM PAGE 17

German coach Markus Weise put it down to hard work.

Disappointed Australian coach Barry Dancer said luck was not on their side.

Germany were beaten by Australia 5-0 on Saturday in a group match, but it was a different story here as they attacked from the off.

Australia were hardly in the game and were pushed back in numbers with the tremendous pressure paying off for Germany as early as the fifth minute.

Weiss collected a pass from Tobias Hauke from a penalty corner and coolly flicked the ball into the top left corner.

The pressure on the Aussies was unbearable and they would have been at least three down if not for goalkeeper Stephen Lambert who single-handedly kept the score down when he made several point-blank saves.

Frustrated, the Aussies then resorted to rough play and that too was punished when Nathan Eglinton was shown the yellow card for a vicious tackle on Benni Wess.

In the second half, Germany were in control while Eglinton was still sitting in the sin bin for the yellow card offence.

He only returned after 25 minutes, the longest punishment for a yellow card seen in the tournament.

DUTCH FINISH THIRD

The Netherlands made history Sunday when they finished third in the Champions Trophy after edging out Korea 3-2 in a thrilling third-half play-off.

The win assured the Dutch a medal in the Champions Trophy for a record 10th consecutive time.

A touch of Lara

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Perhaps the best compliment for Yuvraj Singh, who played one of the finest innings under pressure you can hope to see, would be that he had a touch of Brian Lara. There was the same high backlift, with the bat flowing down from the eye level, the quick hands, malleable wrists, sensational timing and perfect placement. To top it all, there was the part that couldn't be seen, only sensed: the ability to create a bubble where the external factors -- a fresh pitch with a tinge of green, the hole that his team was in when he walked in, and the fact that he was playing for Test spot -- ceased to matter.

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At lunch, Indian would have felt a touch despondent. They had won the toss and chosen to bat knowing that the pitch, which had been under covers for the best part of the last few days, would be soft and offer seam movement. But given their reliance on spin, in the absence of a full-strength pace bowling attack, it was the only option available. Pakistan's bowlers wasted the first hour somewhat by either spraying

the ball wide or bowling too short, but Yasir Arafat changed the course by introducing commonsense, and bowling close to the stumps. At 61 for 4, India were in the danger of having to bowl with the second new ball of the day.

Two significant things happened after lunch. Shoaib Akhtar -- is he Pakistan's biggest match-winner or their biggest liability? -- went off clutching his back. Far more importantly for India, Yuvraj batted like a dream. He was hit on the head once and played and missed outside off-stump a couple of times, and there was an edge off Danish Kaneria that Younis Khan put down but, rather than being intimidated by the situation, he chose to trust his game. He melted the pressure by allowing himself the freedom to play his strokes and by tea it was the bowling side that looked hunted.

Yuvraj's driving on the offside was sensational, both off the front and back foot, and the bowlers were clueless about what length to bowl to him. Some cover drives were played with the full flourish of the bat and some were punched exquisitely. Initially, Mohammed Sami and Arafat tried to cramp him by bowling straight and he either punched them down the ground or picked them through midwicket, generating velocity with his backlift and wrists. Ganguly kept him company by piercing the offside either side of the cover fielder and the 127 runs they scored in the middle session changed the course of the innings.

After tea, Pakistan were reduced to damage control. Sami sought to deny Yuvraj by bowling a couple of feet outside off stump while Kaneria chose to bowl his googlies from outside leg. And two men were stationed behind square on

the leg side for the top-edge to the occasional bouncer. Yuvraj refused to be baited but neither did he slow down. He stayed away from the wide balls but put away everything in driving range. When the sweeper was posted at cover, he still managed to hit the ball wide of him; his only pull was hit through midwicket, all along the ground. As the day progressed and the pitch eased, fours became inevitable irrespective of the bowler and the field. At the end of his innings, his wagon wheel offered evidence of his all-round domination: 92 on the inside, 77 on the off, 50 between point and cover, 37 between square leg and midwicket. Ten of his 28 fours were hit through cover and five through midwicket.

The innings was littered with dazzling strokes but a couple will stay in the mind. The first was a mere push, perhaps a defensive jab, at a full ball from Sami; such was the balance and timing that the ball sped past a bemused mid-on fielder to the boundary. The second was a back-foot cover drive to a ball from Arafat that deserved nothing more than a dead bat. By then, though, Yuvraj was long past his hundred and the merit of the ball had ceased to be of consequence. At that supreme moment, you felt in awe of the batsman but it was difficult not to feel sorry for the bowler.

To Indian fans who have long been riled by the tendency of Pakistan's batsmen to reserve their best for India -- Zaheer Abbas and Javed Miandad have been succeeded by Kamran Akmal (three of his four Test hundreds against India) and Salman Butt (all his four one-day hundreds) -- Yuvraj's third Test century against the old enemy would seem soothing retribution. That might be missing the story, because of far more significance is another common thread: each of these centuries have come when his team was in desperate trouble. On a green top at Lahore in 2004, India were 94 for 4 and 147 for 7; at Karachi in 2006, they were 74 for 4 and Mohammed Asif was in the middle of a dream spell, having knocked out Sachin Tendulkar and VVS Laxman in quick succession. To each crisis Yuvraj has offered his fulsome and natural brilliance. His stroke-making has always exceptional, but his three Test centuries have demonstrated that he has that special ability to play them all when the chips are down.

His latest hundred has given the Indian management a happy headache. They will have one hell of a decision to make when they sit down to pick the team for the next Test, in Australia. Despite his outstanding run in the shorter version of the game, doubts have lingered over the suitability of his technique and temperament for cricket's most challenging form. Yuvraj has banished those misgivings with an innings of such force and pedigree that to keep him out would be a brave decision -- and may ultimately be a foolish one.

There is plenty left in this Test yet, but Yuvraj's innings is potentially series-clinching for India. For himself, it could turn out to be career-changing.

Barisal snap Rajshahi

FROM PAGE 17

Khulna to an easy win over hosts Chittagong as he slammed 92 off 97 balls with twelve hits to the fence.

He shared an opening stand of 169 runs with Mustafizur Rahman, who struck a steady 78. He hit 14 boundaries.

Earlier, it was Sadat who took the crucial wicket of skipper Ehsanul Haque apart from two others as the hosts were skittled out for 188 in 46.1 overs.

Veteran left-arm seamer Monjurul Islam also took three wickets.

BRIEF SCORES

BARISAL: 188 all out in 49.4 overs (Imran 0, Nafees 30, Kamrul 6, Rokibul 8, Raisul 35, Bashar 65, Arafat 1, Shaheen 17, Sajid 15, Sumon 0*, Tarikul 0; Shafiq 3-24, Delwar 2-44, Sajid 2-42, Mahubul 2-35).

RAJSHAHI: 170 all out in 45.5 overs (Jahurul 36, Robiul 32, Farhad 39, Anisur 8, Nayeem 13, Mushfiqur 7, Mashud 10, Mahubul 4, Delwar 1, Saqlain 5*, Shafiq 0; Sajid 1-45, Sumon 2-43, Arafat 1-19, Tarikul 3-43, Bashar 1-16, Raisul 1-2).

Result: Barisal won by 18 runs.

Man-of-the-match: Abul Bashar.

DHAKA: 225 all out in 49.2 overs (Shamsur 3, Mehrab 51, Mosharraf 23, Al Shahriar 1, Riyad 12, Nadif 51*, Rafique 30, Nazmul 25, Sharif 8, Sajjad 3, Mahubul 0; Rashid 3-26, Gofam 1-31, Nabil 1-48, Enamul 1-47, Kapali 2-33).

SYLHET: 174 all out in 41.5 overs (Imtiaz 2, Rajin 8, Rahman 0, Kapali 37, Mabud 22, Sharifullah 52, Ejaz 44, Rezaul 1, Enamul 2, Rashedur 0, Nabil 0*, Mahubul 2-34, Sharif 5-23, Riyad 1-36, Rafique 1-38).

Result: Dhaka won by 51 runs.

Man-of-the-match: Mohammad Sharif.

CHITTAGONG: 188 all out in 46.1 overs (Mahubul 40, Nafis 10, Nazimuddin 40, Dhiman 17, Ehsanul 11, Faisal 15, Rezaul 20, Sajjad 14, Sajju 1, Alamgir 5, Mahmuduzzaman 5*, Ziaur 1-34, Monjurul 3-44, Robiul 1-45, Farid 2-26, Sadat 3-35).

KHULNA: 190-1 in 35.1 overs (Mostafiz 78, Nazmus 92*, Imrul 10*, Nazimuddin 1-14).

Result: Khulna won by nine wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Nazmus Sadat.



The winners of the Lacoste Amazon Inter-club tennis tournament pose for photograph with French Ambassador Jean Romnicianu (standing 5th from right) on the concluding day of the weeklong event at the Amazon Club on Saturday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

36 Yoga position

1 Energy

4 Pursue

9 Piece of legislation

12 In the reader's past

13 MTV importer

14 Kurt

15 Pressed officer

17 History chapter

18 Gold, in Gundalaria

19 Classic comedy siblings

21 Wholesaler

24 Old pulchro

25 TV Tarzan

26 Avicenna

28 Breathing problem during sleep

31 Sax player

33 Uno

35 Dutch cheese

DOWN

1 Ms. —

2 Id

3 Lap dog

4 Dark purplish red

5 Esteemed

6 Do sums

7 Appears

8 Mistakes in print

9 Any of three big Russian emperors

10 Apple center

11 — the night before Christmas

16 Unusually group

20 Lasso

21 Solidly

22 Hedge-podge

23 Chance spectator

27 Brock of baseball

29 Sunnee direction

30 Pumps up the volume

32 — Lang

34 Not as big

37 Grabs

42 Brown

44 A billion years

45 Gravy vessel

46 Plankton component

49 Eggs

51 Apply lightly

52 Storm center

53 Crimson

Solution time: 24 mins.

CRYPTOQUIP

P USOYNZ UJNHJZ HJN
SKHPAVM OGHZPNOH V APYYM
BDJSSMNZ BJS GMY DSOBGN
PB KZNHNNO KZSHNPO
Saturday's Cryptoquip: THE NORTH CAROLINA
GET-TOGETHER IS TURNING DISORDERLY. IT'S
A REALLY UNRULY RALEIGH RALLY.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals T