Pritam take solo lead

UNB, *Dhaka*

Pritam Prijam Chess Club took solo lead securing 18 points after the fifth round matches of the Dutch-Bangla Bank First Division Chess League at the federation hall room yesterday.

Leonine Chess Club are in the second position with 17.5 points while Destiny 2000 are 3rd with 15.5 points.

In the day's 5th round matches, Pritam Prijam outplayed Mohakhali Prodip Sangha 4-0, Leonine crushed Friends Chess Power 4-0, Destiny outclassed Faith Chess Club 4-0, Bangladesh Biman beat Dhaka University Chess Club 3.5-0.5, Mohammadan SC defeated Sultana Kamal Smriti Pathagar 4-0, while Sonali Bank SRC drew with Toyota Motors Chess Club 2-2 and Farashganj SC drew with i2 soft Solution Ltd 2-2.

BDR V-Day kabbadi champs

UNB, *Dhaka*

Bangladesh Rifles emerged champions in the Victory Day Kabaddi Competition outplaying Bangladesh Army by 34-19 points with two creditable `lona' in the final at the Kabaddi Stadium here today (Saturday).

Maftun Haque of the Rifles team was named the best player.

After the final, Bangladesh Kabaddi Federation president and IGP Noor Mohammad distributed prizes among the winners as chief guest.

Exim Bank director Nazrul Islam Swapon was present as special guest.

FIFA bans

FROM PAGE 20

The ban provoked objections from Latin American countries with high-altitude stadiums.

The limit was relaxed to 3,000 metres in June but still affected some venues in the middle of World Cup qualifying matches.

Blatter noted that the next World Cup qualifying round in South America won't be held until June next year. "Until then, we will have time to work out the exact application of this decision."

However, he said: "Concerning FIFA international competitions, in the international calendar there is not so much time to acclimatise (between matches)."

High-altitude cities include Bogota in Colombia at 2,640 metres, Quito in Ecuador at 2,800 metres and La Paz in Bolivia at 3,577 metres.

Bolivia's President Evo Morales has been one of the most vocal opponents of the original ban.

U-19s come

FROM PAGE 17

tourists were reduced to three for 26 and they ultimately failed to recover from the hiccup.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) revised the fixture list as the fourth match will now take place at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium on December 17 and the fifth and final one on December 19 at the Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium.

Knights test

FROM PAGE 17

December 21 to play the Auckland Aces in their last warm-up.

SQUADS

BANGLADESH: Mohammad Ashraful (captain), Zunaed Siddique, Tamim Iqbal, Aftab Ahmed, Tushar Imran, Shakib Al Hasan, Forhad Reza, Mushfiqur Rahim (wicketkeeper), Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, Abdur Razzak, Syed Rasel and Shahadat Hossain Rajib.

THE STATE NORTHERN KNIGHTS: James Marshall (captain), Brent Arnel, Graeme Aldridge, S Andrews, Daniel Flynn, Nick Horsley, Peter McGlashan, Bruce Martin, Mark Orchard, G Robinson, Tim Southee and Bradley J Watling

Cesc urges

FROM PAGE 20

have to do, but I don't see a lot of English players going to Spain or Italy."

While players from Spain, France and Italy are generally considered more technically astute than their English counterparts, Fabregas, 20, believes the English could step up and make it in foreign leagues.

"Sometimes you have to take a step back to go one forward and sometimes they are just comfortable with what they have," added the Spaniard, who has emerged as one of the Gunners most potent goalscorers this season.

"... there are amazing players in England. If they had the chance to go to another country and they could do it; there would be more English players who are great."

On Friday the search for McClaren's successor ended when the Football Assocation (FA) appointed Italian Fabio Capello as the new England manager.

'I'm a bowler who can bat'

Cricket

CRICINFO, *undated*

Irfan Pathan has said he can be good allrounder but he sees himself as a bowler who can bat. "I'm happy to be able to contribute with the bat," Pathan told the Times of India. At the end of the day, if you have scored runs for your team, it helps your bowling to a great extent. I'm grateful to God for giving me the chance to score that hundred against Pakistan. I really cherished the moment."

"An allrounder takes wickets and scores runs regularly, so it is important to be consistent with the bat. As of now, I have to work harder on my batting to be called an allrounder."

Pathan was happy with his bowling form and was confident that the wickets will come soon. "I'm a very confident bowler now. The results might not show that, but I know for sure that I'm bowling well. If I'm able to continue the good work, the wickets will come. It is important to know your strengths and weaknesses. Once you know your limitations, you are

IRFAN PATHAN

in a good position to analyse your action. My one-day form has helped my cause."

Pathan said he is looking forward to play in Australia, where he made his Test debut in 2003 in Adelaide. "You can say that I grew up in international cricket in Australia ... that series helped me understand the nuances of bowling at the highest level. I know how the Australian wickets will behave. In Australia, I just need to pitch the ball in the right areas. When it is new, the Kookaburra ball swings more than the SG ball. But you need the right grip and technique to move the ball effectively."

He lauded the contribution of the bowling coach Venkatesh Prasad. "He is of great help, not just to me, but to everyone in the team. He boosts our confidence every time we take the field. Most importantly, he has played a lot of cricket for India and his knowledge is very useful. He analyses everyone and discusses nitty-gritty with the bowlers. We are glad to have someone like him with the team."

Pathan was hopeful of India's chances in the upcoming series. "We have a balanced team. Our batting is strong and our bowlers are capable of taking 20 wickets. All the Australian batsmen are aggressive. I enjoy playing against them and there is no particular batsman I see as a threat."

Warne offered fattest IPL purse

Cricket

PTI, *Mumbai*

Australian spin legend Shane Warne will be the highest paid cricketer in the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) sponsored Indian Premier League (IPL) with a staggering 400,000 dollars in his kitty.

The BCCI managing committee announced the names of 34 cricketers including Warne, who have signed the contract and would be competing in next year's cricket league.

Retired Aussie pacer Glenn McGrath and prolific Pakistan middle-order batsman Mohammad Yousuf will earn 350,000 dollars and 330,000 dollars respectively, announced BCCI treasurer N Srinivasan here on Friday.

Former Kiwi skipper Stephen Fleming has been offered 350,000 dollars while 10 other cricketers were offered in the 225,000 dollars bracket. However, the board did not mention the names of any Indian cricketers who have been offered a contract amount.

On being asked about Australian captain Ricky Ponting and swashbuckling wicketkeeper-batsman Adam Gilchrist's decision on joining the league, Srinivasan said the board was in talks with them and would make a formal announcement soon.

Pakistan fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar (225,000 dollars) and captain Shoaib Malik (300,000 dollars) have also confirmed their participation in the league along with retired Sri Lankan star Sanath Jayasuriya.

Jayasuriya's teammate and highest wicket-taker in Tests Muttiah Muralidaran has been offered 250,000 dollars.

Liverpool face MU

FROM PAGE 20

with confidence running high after an impressive 4-0 win over Marseille in the Champions League in midweek and the tensions between the manager and the club's American owners apparently receding.

United's recent form has been equally impressive and Ferguson knows he will not have to work overtime to get his players motivated for what he regards as the biggest match in English football.

"We both look upon the other as our main rival. Liverpool's support is a big component of that club, particularly against United.

"You have to be a man to handle that atmosphere. If you are a lamb, you are dead."

With the big match players on both sides currently firing on all cylinders; both managers have the luxury of almost full strength squads to pick from.

Liverpool's Spanish midfielder Xabi Alonso is available to Benitez after two-month absence with a metatarsal injury while Owen Hargreaves is back for United.

Of the two, Hargreaves is the more likely starter with Benitez expected to continue with the combative Javier Mascherano in the midfield holding role behind club captain Steven Gerrard.

Liverpool are sweating on the availability of first-choice right-back Steve Finnan, who is struggling with a calf injury and last season's match-winner O'Shea is doubtful for United because of a groin strain.

Malik keeps captaincy

REUTERS, *Karachi*

Shoaib Malik is to retain the Pakistan captaincy until the end of next year despite the series defeat against India, Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Dr Nasim Ashraf said on Thursday.

"We will stick to our decision to name him as captain for the year (2008). We will give him our full backing and we feel he can mature into a good captain in time," Ashraf told reporters.

The 25-year-old Malik's captaincy and own form have come under the microscope after Pakistan's one-day and Test series defeats at home to South Africa and then the disappointing showing in India.

Malik led Pakistan in the one-day series in India, which the hosts won 3-2, and the first Test in New Delhi which India won by six wickets before going on to complete a 1-0 series triumph.

Vice-captain Younis Khan was the captain for the last two Tests as Malik was ruled out with an ankle injury.

Ashraf said the board had made Malik the captain this year keeping in mind the future of Pakistan cricket.

V-Day handball

UNB, *Dhaka*

Bangladesh Handball Federation will hold two exhibition matches (men's and women's) on the Victory Day at the Outer Stadium Handball court.

In both sections, Red teams will play against the Green teams.

Handball Federation vice president Kazi Mahtab Uddin Ahmed will be the chief guest on the occasion.

Rajshahi on the ropes

FROM PAGE 17

wickets on the day to finish with figures of 4-79 while Aslam Khan and Robiul Islam captured three wickets each.

Khulna made a bold reply in chase of their opponents moderate total thanks to a 96-run opening stand between Nazmus Sadat and Kayes.

Left-arm spinner Enamul Haque removed Sadat, who returned to the pavilion after am 88-ball 47 that included six fours, but Kayes remained not out on 87 off 176 balls that contained ten fours and two sixes.

Mostafizur Rahman accompanied Kayes with 38 runs.

BARISAL-DHAKA

Shahriar Nafees and Nasiruddin Faruque made a brilliant start but it all went wrong for Barisal once their skipper Nafees was trapped leg before wicket by spinner Mahmudullah Riyad for an 105-ball 48.

Despite a hundred-run opening partnership, Barisal were reduced to 152 for seven at stumps in reply to Dhaka's 262.

All five Dhaka bowlers came up with success and ace left-arm spinner Mohammad Rafique was most successful with three for 45.

Earlier, Mohammad Sharif slammed 57 after resuming the day on 30 as Dhaka were all out for 262 after resuming the day on 215 for six.

BRIEF SCORES

Chittagong: First innings 198 and second innings 113 for 3 in 35 overs (Salahuddin 49, Masum 28, Mahbubul 3, Nazimuddin 19*, Faisal 13*; Saiful 1-21, Mahbub 2-17).

Rajshahi: First innings 118 all out in 57.2 overs (Jahurul 9, Rabiul 8, Farhad 11, Shakil 21, Alamgir 9, Mashud 25, Naeem 14, Mushfiqur 3 not out, Mahbub 0, Saiful 9, Shahjada 0, Tareq 3-53, Younus 4-22, Kamrul 1-29, Ehsanul 1-10, Yasin 1-0).

Sylhet: First innings 300 all out in 124.3 overs (Imtiaz 15, Kuntal 19, Rajin 2, Alok 36, Golam Mabud 53, Ejaz 6, Rahman 85, Saif 12, Enamul 7, Nabil 25, Rashidur 23 not out; Aslam 3-63, Robiul 3-60, Murad 4-79).

Khulna: First innings 193 for one in 56 overs (Sadat 47, Kayes 87*, Mostafizur 38*; Enamul 1-44)

Dhaka: First innings 262 all out in 110.1 overs (Al Shahriar 16, Uttam 16, Anwar 8, Mehrab 33, Mahmudullah 12, Nadif 39, Sajjad 9, Mosharraf 40, Sharif 57, Rafique 0, Mahbubul 0 not out; Talha 2-46, Sajidul 2-45, Tariqul 3-85, Arafat 2-57).

Barisal: First innings 152 for seven in 62 overs (Nafees 48, Faruque 61, Imran 16, Raqibul 11, Raisul 3, Kamrul 0, Tariqul 0*, Arafat 2, Shaheen 0*; Mahbubul 1-32, Sharif 1-33, Mosharraf 1-21, Rafique 3-45, Riyad 1-14).

Gunners ready for Blues

FROM PAGE 20

return to Arsenal since his controversial move across the capital in 2006.

The England left-back made it clear he wanted to leave Arsenal after falling out with the board over his wage demands and ended up at Chelsea, who had already been fined by trying to tap him up.

Cole's exit left a sour taste for Gunners fans, even though they got William Gallas as part of the deal, and they are certain to give their former hero a torrid reception, despite Wenger's pleas for calm.

"I want our fans to be behind our team and not to especially have resentment with Ashley Cole because he has done well for the club as long as he has been here," he said. Ideally, you want everybody who has played for you to be respected."

While Arsenal have been earning all the plaudits, Avram Grant has quietly steadied the ship at Chelsea with an impressive 16-match unbeaten run.

The Israeli was given no respect when he took over from Jose Mourinho in September but he has the Blues within a win of drawing level with Arsenal.

Grant, who spent some time studying Wenger's training methods before moving to England, was rewarded with a new four-year contract this week and his French counterpart insists it, was well deserved.

"At the moment they have been discreet, but efficient," Wenger said. "Avram Grant has got a completely different profile, he is not very noisy, but his team is efficient and that is important. His results speak for him."

Grant rarely lets his emotions show in public so he was never going to emulate Mourinho's volatile approach to these fixtures. But even he acknowledged the match carries an extra significance for both teams.

"This is an important game because it's a big game between these two clubs," he said. "Secondly, we are three points behind Arsenal. It was seven points two games ago and now it's only three.

"I don't think this is the game that will affect the championship immediately but it's a good game to win."

Lanka eye 2nd spot

AFP, *Galle*

Mahela Jayawardene's Sri Lanka will leapfrog from world number five to second behind Australia if they win the third and final Test against England starting here on Tuesday.

A win would give the hosts a 2-0 series success and lift Jayawardene's men past India, South Africa and England in the International Cricket Council's (ICC) Test rankings.

England would take the reverse route, going down to five from the current number two, if they lost the Test.

A win or a draw, however, would help Michael Vaughan's team retain their second spot, according to an ICC release.

England coach Peter Moores said his team had no option but to fight for a series-levelling win at the Galle International Stadium.

"We desperately want to stay up those rankings," said Moores.

"But the immediate thing is to win Test matches in the series you are playing in. That affects your ranking. It is an indicator of where you are at any given time."

Jayawardene said his team deserved to go up the rankings if they won the match and took the series 2-0.

"We have played consistently well over some time now," he said. "The important thing is to continue the same form in every match. The rankings will take care of themselves."

Sri Lanka won the first Test in Kandy by 88 runs. The second Test in Colombo was drawn on Thursday.

BCCI discusses Dilip issue today

PTI, *Mumbai*

The Board of Control for Cricket in India's (BCCI) all-powerful Working Committee is to meet here today to discuss the contentious seven-point guidelines issued to the selectors.

Chief selector Dilip Vengsarkar is against the guidelines which has banned him and other selectors from writing newspaper columns. He also wants the BCCI to compensate him for discontinuing his regular columns.

The tussle reached a flashpoint when Vengsarkar offered to resign due to the ban. However, BCCI President Sharad Pawar calmed his nerves promising that proper compensation would be given to the selectors paving the way for the former India captain to attend the selection panel meeting in Bangalore on last Monday.

Vengsarkar today met Pawar at the latter's residence in the presence of president-elect Shashank Manohar.

"It was a very good meeting. We discussed a lot of things about Indian cricket and all the other issues. It went very well," Vengsarkar said.

Pawar, in his bid to downplay the issue, said, "Whenever I come to Mumbai I meet Vengsarkar".

Jayasuriya to play T20 for Warwicks

AFP, *London*

Sri Lankan veteran Sanath Jayasuriya has signed up to play for Warwickshire in the English counties' Twenty20 competition next year, the county announced on Friday.

The 38-year-old announced his retirement from Test cricket earlier this month but plans to continue playing for Sri Lanka in one-day internationals.

Ashley Giles, the former England bowler who is now director of cricket at Warwickshire, hailed the signing of Jaysuriya as a coup for the county.

"Sanath has vast experience in all forms of cricket but especially the one day format," said Giles.

"He will be a great man for the younger members of our squad to learn from and his knowledge of the game will be crucial in the Twenty20 format of the game. I am looking forward to working with him next summer."

Their last shot

FROM PAGE 17

their tally to 14.

"They've got match-winning bowlers," Laxman said of the new-look Australian attack following the retirement of Glenn McGrath and Shane Warne, both of whom had missed the 2003-04 series.

"(Shaun) Tait or (Mitchell Johnson), the way (Brett) Lee's bowling, or for that matter Stuart Clark... It'll be a huge challenge facing these guys."

India, on the other hand, are taking two inexperienced bowlers in Ishant Sharma and the uncapped Pankaj Singh in a five-man pace attack that has been hit by injuries.

"They are potentially very good...if they can bowl to their potential it will be an interesting sight," said Laxman.

Pollock Ntini XI's star

Cricket

AFP, *East London*

Veteran South African all-rounder Shaun Pollock sent the West Indians crashing to a narrow defeat against a Makhaya Ntini Invitation XI in a rain-affected opening match of their tour at Buffalo Park Friday.

Pollock top-scored 54 off 40 balls and took one for five in three overs as the Ntini XI won by five runs on the Duckworth/Lewis method. He also contributed a direct-hit run-out.

The invitation team scored 176 for nine in the 25-overs-a-side match to mark the benefit season of South African fast bowler Ntini. The West Indians were 110 for five after 16.2 overs when rain brought the match to an early end.

Pollock will lead South Africa in a Twenty20 international in Port Elizabeth Sunday, with regular captain Graeme Smith ruled out because of a virus.

The Ntini XI were struggling at 106 for seven before Pollock and Ntini shared a 52-run stand for the eighth wicket. Pollock hit two fours and three sixes before he was caught in the deep.

Jacques Kallis looked in good form, hitting two sixes in an over off left-arm opening bowler Pedro Collins before being caught behind off stand-in captain Dwayne Bravo for 27 off 20 balls.

Jonty Rhodes, who retired from top-level cricket after being injured during the 2003 World Cup but has remained involved as fielding coach of the South African team, made 25 off 23 balls. His innings included a trademark pulled six off Darren Sammy. Pollock plunged the tourists into early trouble when Brenton Parchment was leg before and Devon Smith was run out after a smart piece of fielding by Pollock off his own bowling.

Shivnarine Chanderpaul struck a confident 44 off 27 balls for the West Indians but he was caught and bowled off a leading edge by former South African left-arm spinner Paul Adams in a crucial blow shortly before the rain came down.

Bravo said he was disappointed that rain had stopped the match but was pleased that his players had shown an aggressive attitude, even though it was a benefit match. "We tried to be as competitive as possible and to build on our series win in Zimbabwe with some big games coming up," he said.

BRIEF SCORES

MAKHAYA NTINI INVITATION XI: 176 for 9 in 25 overs (Pollock 54, Kallis 27, Rhodes 25; Edwards 2-23, Sammy 2-25)

WEST INDIANS: 110 for 5 in 16.2 overs (Chanderpaul 44, Ramdin 20; (Pollock 1-5, Henderson 1-7)

Result: Makhaya Ntini Invitation XI won by 5 runs (Duckworth/Lewis method).

Galle fighting to be fit

Cricket

BBC ONLINE, *undated*

Unseasonal rain has left groundstaff battling to get the Galle venue ready in time for the final Test between England and Sri Lanka on Tuesday.

Heavy rain left much of the playing area under water on Friday while there was thick mud on one of the boundaries.

There was also no electricity or water inside the buildings for what will be the first Test at the ground since it was devastated by the 2004 tsunami.

But groundsman Jayananda Warnaweera said: "It will be ready come what may."

The stadium had been due to host the first Test of the series but that was changed because of delays in the reconstruction of the ground.

"It has been a long haul but for the people of Galle this is a celebration and we will make it happen," added Warnaweera.

BBC Sport cricket correspondent Jonathan Agnew said: "It's a building site. People are working day and night here trying to get this sorted out and they'll be hard pressed; there isn't even a scoreboard on the ground at the moment.

"It's difficult to see where people are going to sit -- there's just areas of sand. The outfield is wet; it's very boggy -- there's been a lot of rain in these parts.

"The pitch is OK. It's green and grassy at the moment but I'm sure they'll take that off.

"This is a week for cricket to look at the bigger picture and the terrible damage the tsunami did here three years ago and the scores of people who lost their lives, particularly those just behind the ground here.

"It will be a very poignant week here and that's why people are absolutely desperate for this match to take place."

With a historic Dutch-built fort as its backdrop and views of the ocean, Galle has frequently been described as one of the most beautiful grounds in the world.

England need to win the match to draw the series after Sri Lanka won the first Test and drew the second.

"We're pretty much going to have to take the stance that whatever we have to play on, we'll go out there and play on it. It's as simple as that.

"It's obviously not finished at the moment but they are working very hard and progressing day by day so hopefully as the Test match comes around, it'll be playable out there and we can get on with it," said England batsman Paul Collingwood.

"It's a game we're all looking forward to. It's hard to believe the events what actually happened here three years ago.

"Driving down in the bus from Colombo, the further we got down, there was a real sickening feeling, seeing the destruction that was caused. That's why it's vital to put the smiles back on people's faces and get on with it."

England appoint

FROM PAGE 20

Barwick said last night.

At 4.50pm yesterday, after three days of intensive negotiations, Barwick informed board members and FA staff that the appointment was official. FA staff worked almost round the clock to capture Capello's signature by the weekend.

Few organisations outside government operate under such intense media scrutiny and, while the FA's media team, led by the communications director, Adrian Bevington, has coped manfully, there has been a sense that 24-hour news crews on the Soho Square doorstep and incessant calls from the written media contributed to a desire to get the deal done promptly.

Serious negotiations with Capello began only on Sunday but, with face-to-face talks going exceptionally well on Wednesday, the FA hoped to have the new man presented to the media by yesterday afternoon. That prospect faded on Thursday as uneasy FA board members and the weight of paperwork slowed progress. The FA said there was no major issue at stake, stressing the complexity of preparing employment contracts in two languages.

The intervention of professional game representatives on the FA board may prove the most significant event for Barwick as it illustrates the difficulty of steering the organisation decisively. Asked to find a candidate, Barwick faced questions over Capello's all-Italian staff, the £6.5m salary apparently already agreed and the fact that the board was being consulted only by conference call. Some FA insiders privately characterise the disquiet as sour grapes from individuals who would like to have been more closely involved and point to the shambolic appointment of McClaren last year, a decision made by a nominations committee, as evidence of why the chief executive had to be in control of this appointment.

Barwick will face close questioning at next Thursday's scheduled board meeting, at which the new independent chairman of the FA, expected to be Sir Roy Gardiner, will be discussed. That meeting could yet prove stormy, with concerns in some quarters that the disquiet expressed on Thursday could crystallise into opposition to the National Football Centre at Burton-on-Trent.

The board had been expected to give the go-ahead to the controversial project which Brooking and others see as essential to the development of English coaches and players.

Looking only

FROM PAGE 17

wicket. He has changed his mindset."

Yuvraj was also effusive in his praise of Anil Kumble's captaincy. "He has been a very good captain with plenty of experience. His first win as Test captain must be very special to him. He is very aggressive and hungry for success."

India play four Tests against Australia, starting December 26 in Melbourne.

Gaibandha win

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Gaibandha*

Gaibandha secured a four-wicket victory over Rangpur in the National Under-14 District Youth Cricket Competition at the local stadium here yesterday.

Rangpur were all out for 127 runs after deciding to bat.

In reply, Gaibandha raced to 133 for six in 29.4 overs.

BFF donates

FROM PAGE 17

of Mohammedan Sporting Club and Kazi Nabil Ahmed of Abahani were also present while the cheque was handed over to the NSC chairman.

The amount has been raised from the three matches between the country's two soccer giants Mohammedan and Abahani in the first week of this month at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Mohammedan won the three-match charity series 2-1.

Rangamati

FROM PAGE 17

Mina got the player of the final award. Sukhi of Narayanganj DSA, who scored nine goals, bagged the highest scorer award.

LGRD Adviser Anwarul Iqbal was present at the closing ceremony as chief guest and later distributed the prizes.

Women and Children Affairs secretary Rokeya Sultana and Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) vice president Rafia Akhter Doly were present as special guests.

CROSSWORD *By Eugene Sheffer*

ACROSS

1 Elegance
6 Gave a makeover to
11 Like winter roads
12 Draw forth
14 Spirit of friendship?
15 Pickled buds used as garnish
16 Illustrations
17 Began eating
19 "Eureka!"
20 Timid
22 Cauldron
23 Culture medium
24 First Little Pig's building material
26 Some bicycles
28 Awful
30 Mainlander's memento
31 Contract paragraphs
35 Believer of a sort
39 War, to Gen. Sherman
40 Dandy
42 "Do — others ..."
43 Khan title
44 Largest of the 48
46 Convent dweller
47 3.26 light-years
49 Abrade
51 Mary, Queen of Scots' house
52 Beau
53 Important signs
54 Fiery fragment

DOWN

1 Sommelier's suggestion
2 Sheen
3 Cleo's slayer
4 Lean-to
5 Waffle enhancer
6 Concert
7 Verve
8 Party bowful
9 Pleistocene period
10 Money of Morocco
11 Defrauds
13 Autocrats
18 Perceived
21 Afghanistan's capital
23 Farewell
25 Existed
27 Actor Beatty
29 Flaws
31 Rancher's garb
32 Smoothly connected, in music
33 Call to arms
34 Hose
36 Congenital
37 Dull state
38 Photocopier need
41 Old hat
44 Gull's kin
45 Slimy coating
48 Return env.
50 Tease

Solution time: 27 mins.

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C	O	M	E	T	S	■	H	O	N	E	S	T
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CRYPTOQUIP

XNZV KL FNZ RN YNZYJDZHZV GWW IRNXJ WHIIWJ OHXIGAJX UJNUWJ IJZF IN OGAJ: "IHZL KNKKWJX."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A MAN HAD INFINITE KNOWLEDGE OF GRASS-CUTTING MACHINES, WOULD THAT MAKE HIM ALL-MOWING?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals P