



Herschelle Gibbs plays towards mid-wicket during his sparkling 74 off 75 balls during South Africa's rain-affected innings against England in the fourth one-day at Lord's in London on Sunday. The visitors scored 183-6 in 32.1 overs in a 33-overs-a-side match when rain again halted play. Johan Botha (2) and Mark Boucher (10) were at the crease.

Tutul fires Muktis

CU CORRESPONDENT

Tutul's double propelled Mukti-jodha Sangsod Sporting Club to a 3-0 win over Chittagong Brothers Union in an ANZ Properties Premier Football League match at the MA Aziz Stadium yesterday.

Tutul struck in the 38th and the 65th minutes after Biplab scored in the 22nd minute to start the scoring.

In another match, Railway Rangers defeated Mohammedan Sporting Club Blues 1-0.

Jewel of Railways scored the all-important goal from a long-range shot in the 11th minutes of the first half.

Moin wants ICL recalls

INTERNET, undated

Former Pakistan captain Moin Khan hopes the Pakistan Cricket Board will "be more flexible" and allow players participating in the rebel Indian Cricket League to return to the national team.

Moin hopes an overhaul at the top of the game in Pakistan, with PCB chairman Nasim Ashraf leaving his post following the resignation of Pervez Musharraf as the country's president, will result in players competing in the ICL -- which has not been approved by the International Cricket Council -- earning international recalls.

The likes of former Pakistan captain Inzamamul Haq and Abdul Razzaq were initially banned from all international cricket after featuring for Lahore Badshahs, but after the England and Wales Cricket Board lifted a similar restriction in county cricket, Moin expressed hope the PCB would overturn the suspensions.

"All players featuring in the ICL are professional cricketers and they are not breaking any law," Moin was quoted as saying in The News.

"They are just earning their livelihood, so why ban them? I hope the new set-up will be more flexible on the issue."

PCB look for 'educated' players

PTI, Karachi

Aware of the fact that players with humble backgrounds often struggle with their fame and success, the Pakistan Cricket Board will soon launch an ambitious programme aimed at providing specialised coaching and higher education opportunities to the young players at the same time.

There has been a feeling that many of the controversies and scandals that have happened in Pakistan cricket is mainly because many of the players come from humble backgrounds with no proper specialised education or the necessary grooming to adjust properly to the fame, glamour and money that follow their success.

Many of the players who have played for Pakistan in the last decade have come from hamlets in Punjab or North West Frontier Province with few having formal education from government schools.

BCB, AIUB

FROM PAGE 17

They will also offer scholarships to promising young players for full academic courses such as BBA and MBA.

Six young cricketers will get the scholarship in a year while 30 cricketers from different age levels like under-19, under-17 will attend a course alongside the development managers who can even complete specialist courses at this university.

Although the three-year contract has been made only for the BCB's game development program, the national cricketers can also avail the opportunity if they want to improve their language or computer efficiency.

BCB president Major General Sina Ibn Jamali, development committee chairman Shakil Kasem, cricket operations committee chairman Gazi Ashraf Hossain, AIUB vice-chancellor Dr. Carmen Z. Lamagna were present at the signing ceremony in the AIUB auditorium.

Foreign players

FROM PAGE 17

The Ranji Trophy is the country's premier inter-state competition and a good performance here often makes a case for selection to the national squad.

Former England batsman Denis Compton and West Indian pacer Roy Gilchrist had played in the Ranji Trophy during India's pre-independence period but the trend was done away with later on.

The BCCI had been mulling such a move for the past two years in the wake of dwindling spectator interest and almost negligible TV viewership.

Spurs hold Blues

AFP, London



Chelsea were forced to settle for a frustrating 1-1 draw against Tottenham on Sunday as Darren Bent staged a smash and grab raid at Stamford Bridge.

Luiz Felipe Scolari's side dominated for long periods and deservedly went in front through Juliano Belletti's first half strike.

But Bent punished a mix-up between Frank Lampard and Ricardo Carvalho to poach an equaliser on the stroke of half-time and Chelsea couldn't break down Spurs again.

While Scolari can have few complaints about his team's build-up play, their lack of cutting edge in the absence of Didier Drogba needs to be addressed.

Nicolas Anelka was a subdued figure and Scolari must be hoping the Blues can tie up a deal for Real Madrid forward Robinho before Monday's transfer deadline.

Spurs had won only three of their 14 league matches since beating Chelsea in the League Cup final last season and made the short trip across London bottom of the table after two successive defeats.

They hardly looked like the potential top four challengers many billed them as in pre-season as Luka Modric and David Bentley failed to shine, but Juande Ramos can take heart from the way they scrapped for a point after Bent's equaliser.

A resolution to the Dimitar Berbatov saga would help. The Bulgarian was missing from the Spurs squad again as Ramos decided he wasn't in the right frame of mind to play while he continues to demand a transfer to Manchester United.

With Michael Ballack and John Obi Mikel injured, Scolari used Brazilian right-back Belletti as a make-shift holding midfielder.

Scolari's side made a dazzling start. The tone was set by Lampard in the fifth minute. Joe Cole dummied Deco's pass to Lampard on the edge of the Spurs area and the England midfielder's sublime chip forced Heurelho Gomes into a superb tip over.

Anelka should have opened the scoring in the 26th minute when Belletti's pass dissected the Spurs defence but the France striker shot wildly over.

Michael Essien went much closer moments later as he surged forward in typically dynamic fashion before rattling the crossbar with a fierce drive.

Not for the first time, Ramos threw his arms up in disgust at his side's inability to stem the tide. Spurs were writing in the face of Chelsea's fluid passing and relentless pressing.

They finally cracked after 28

minutes. Deco swung in a low corner and, when Bent made a hash of his attempted clearance, Belletti was on hand to volley past Gomes.

It was only Belletti's third goal for Chelsea and his first since scoring against Spurs back in January.

But incredibly the visitors went in level at half-time after Bent took advantage of a rare misstep from the Blues in the 45th minute.

Lampard nipped in to tackle Modric in midfield and Carvalho failed to close down Bent quickly enough. The Spurs striker pounced on the loose ball, burst in the penalty area and slipped his shot under Petr Cech.

Despite that setback, Chelsea immediately had Spurs back on the defensive after the break.

Essien picked out Ashley Cole and the left-back flashed a shot wide of the far post. Then Lampard tried his luck with another chip which floated over soon after.

Now they had something to hold onto, Spurs were happy to soak up the pressure. Carvalho headed over from Lampard's corner but Chelsea were beginning to run out of ideas.

How Scolari must have wished he had Robinho to call on. Instead he sent on Florent Malouda and Salomon Kalou but it made little difference as Spurs battered down the hatches to end Chelsea's 100 per cent start.

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'Dhoni's return helped'

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Dilip Vengsarkar, India's chairman of selectors, has praised captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni for his role in the 3-2 series win in the one-dayers in Sri Lanka. Dhoni was rested for the Test series, which India lost, but his contributions with the bat, his handling of the Sri Lankan spinner Ajantha Mendis and his leadership skills have impressed Vengsarkar.

"Dhoni's return to the team was a boon. Not only did he lead the side superbly but he played a couple of match-winning knocks," Vengsarkar told the Times of India in Colombo. "More importantly, he handled the dreaded Ajantha Mendis with ease, and in the process, he showed his colleagues that Mendis could be handled and scored off too."

Dhoni scored two half-

centuries and picked up the Man-of-the-Series award after leading the overall run charts with 193 runs in five games.

Vengsarkar felt India had "outplayed Sri Lanka in all departments of the game" and was proud of the fact that the team had reversed their unsatisfactory record against the Sri Lankans away from home.

"Man to man, India were a superior team and they played like one. For the last two years or so, India have really gone up in the rankings by several notches and that's very heartening," Vengsarkar said.

"Mind you, it's tough to beat Sri Lanka on their home turf, as no Indian team has done it in the past and that's why it is more satisfying."

Reflecting on the Tests, Vengsarkar felt India's cautious approach against Mendis along with some average fielding, had cost them. Mendis finished with 26 wickets in his debut series, which included a ten-wicket haul

in Galle.

"I guess Mendis was the difference between the two sides. He bowled brilliantly but what surprised me was the overcautious approach of the batsmen. I feel (Sachin) Tendulkar got more bogged down than necessary. In fact, with the kind of batting line-up that India boast of, it should have been Mendis was overawed."

"Besides, the referral system needs a re-look, for a lot many batsmen were given out after stretching their front foot a long way forward."

Vengsarkar was, however, satisfied with India's bench strength, but wouldn't commit to the quartet of Tendulkar, Sourav Ganguly, Rahul Dravid and VVS Laxman returning to the one-day side. "Though there are quite a few players knocking at the Test level, at the moment the bench strength looks pretty solid. And it's not fair for me to answer this question as the selection panel consists of five people."

No clear favourites

FROM PAGE 17

Nigerian Alamu Bukola has simply been irresistible with eight goals in four games while his striking partner Robin has missed the target just in one game.

They make the best attacking pair in the tournament, having shared 12 goals out of the eight-time champions' total 13.

"But I will miss my playmaker Arman Aziz who has suffered a bad injury," the coach said adding that the Mohammedan midfielder has only a five per cent chance of playing.

Nigerian recruit Dami Emmanuel is expected to fill the void and stand beside Sharif and Egyptian Hajem Mahmud in the three-man central midfield. With young Nasir guaranteed a place at right, Maruf will have to choose between a more defence oriented left fullback in Kamal or Faisal Mahmud's attacking flair.

Apart from missing Aziz, Maruf's worry is an aging central defence -- Hassan Al Mamun, skipper Jewel Rana and Rajani -- which has conceded four goals so far.

"Age is not a problem for them but they have failed to adapt to the new system," he said while explaining that he wants a 'screener', not a 'sweeper' to which the local players are more used to.

In the end, the battle will be between the tournament's best attack and the tightest backline.

The sky-blues have conceded just two goals and Amalshen Sen's seventh-time Federation Cup winners, who also enter their 12th final and their first since 2000, have a headache any coach would love to have.

With comeback king Sujan and Ghana's Samad Yussif in fine form, captain Nazrul's return from a two-match suspension would definitely tempt veteran coach Amalshen to use a three-man central defence, which he has done often during the tournament despite falling in love with 4-4-2 longago.

Mamun, banned for one match, and Ujjal, announced fit, will also be available in midfield to fight for a place at the right with Zahed Parvez.

The only concern, however, is three-goal Joy. The holding midfielder and former captain has been nursing a groin problem but the sky-blues management is 80 per cent hopeful he would take the field.

If Abahani opt for a 3-5-2 formation and Joy is playing, Pranotosh

who scored their equaliser in the 2-1 semifinal victory against Farashganj, will have to sit out.

"Our strength lies in the bench. We can substitute any player with similar quality," said Amalshen, whose side have netted 12 goals but played one goalless draw in the group.

Mohammedan have won all their matches and Bukola is among goals but like them, we are not dependent on one scorer as Ujjal and Waly have also scored for us. We just want to play our own game," added the former international midfielder, who could well have spent a sleepless night over the selection dilemma.

Emly, who has struck four goals for Abahani and always runs toward the goal, has been termed dangerous by Mohammedan coach Maruf. His partner, Ghanaian forward Ibrahim, may have not fired once but remains the Abahani powerhouse and the provider of goals.

Despite all the talents on the pitch, the match could well come down to the nation's two top goalkeepers, Mohammedan's national number one Aminul and the inform Biplab, if the match goes into penalties.

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Henriques gets surprise call

CRICINFO, Darwin

Moises Henriques, the Portuguese-born New South Wales allrounder, will join the Australia squad in Darwin as a replacement for the demoted Andrew Symonds. But Henriques, 21, is almost certain to take no part in the remaining two matches against Bangladesh and is being added to the group largely to give him experience around the national side.

The selectors were put in a difficult position when Symonds was sent home for missing a team meeting as it left only 11 fully fit players in Darwin with the twelfth, Shane Watson, likely to have recovered from a minor niggle in time for the second game on Wednesday. An extra player was clearly needed but the leading candidates are in India representing Australia.

"Given the importance of the Australia A tour of India, where players will have an opportunity to press for Test selection in the upcoming series, it was decided that a young emerging player should be added to the national team to gain experience," Andrew Hilditch, the chairman of selectors, said. "The national selection panel thought it was an ideal opportunity to reward Moises for an outstanding stint at the Cricket Australia Centre of Excellence and Emerging Players Tournament."

Should injuries force the selectors to look outside the main 12 players for the remaining two games, an Australia A representative will be rushed to Darwin if time permits. "Moises will only play in exceptional circumstances," Hilditch said.

Henriques has been viewed as an exciting prospect since starring in the Under-19 World Cup in Sri Lanka, where he was the captain. He also led the Australian Institute of Sports team in the practice matches against Bangladesh in the lead-up to the first ODI. A promising middle-order batsman and right-arm fast bowler, Henriques has impressed in his limited opportunities for New South Wales in the past couple of seasons.

Lawson sad at snub

PTI, Karachi

The Australian coach of the Pakistan team Geoff Lawson has described as "very disappointing" the decision by some countries not to send their teams to Pakistan for the Champions Trophy leading to the postponement of the eight-nation competition last week.

Lawson had gone to Australia and New Zealand as a member of the International Cricket Council (ICC) task force to convince the officials and players there that it was safe to play the tournament in Pakistan but didn't meet with success.

Lawson told reporters in Lahore that he and the task force did their best but the concerned teams had their own point of view.

"I don't want to go into that, needless to say it is very disappointing to see the tournament postponed and I am hoping now we can get some cricket in South Africa in September," Lawson said.

The Pakistan board is trying to arrange a tri-series or a bilateral one-day rubber in South Africa to make up for the postponement of the Champions Trophy but nothing has been finalised as yet.

Akhtar set for Surrey

Cricket

PTI, Karachi

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has cleared controversial fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar to play a couple of matches for English county Surrey in September.

Sources in the board confirmed that Shoaib had asked for the PCB nod after being approached by Surrey who wanted him to play two or three matches with the season closing.

"Apparently Surrey want to boost their revenues and have invited Shoaib for these games. I don't know whether they are first class or one day games but we have said he can play," the source said.

Asked how he was cleared when the board was insisting that the fast bowler should first pay a fine of seven million rupees before he can play for Pakistan, the source said that the condition was only for playing for the national team.

"Since he is playing abroad for a foreign side the board had no objections and it will also allow us to assess his fitness," the source said.

But he added that Shoaib had been told that if the planned tri-series in South Africa next month materialises, he has to keep himself available for national duty provided he pays the fine.

Sources say that Shoaib who has played just a couple of Twenty20 games and a first class match since last December is also keen to get back into full bowling form and has been working very hard in the nets these days in Lahore.

The board has issued a legal notice to Shoaib asking him to pay a fine of seven million imposed on him by the appellate tribunal or get a court injunction against the fine.

The tribunal had imposed the fine in June while reducing a five-year ban on Shoaib to 18-months that was announced by the board for various counts of indiscipline.

Meanwhile, senior batsman Younis Khan is all set to play for South

Australia in the Sheffield Shield that gets underway in October.

"He is presently enjoying a well deserved rest and also completing his travel formalities to go to Australia by October," a PCB official said.

PCB has already given permission to Younis to play for South Australia for the 2008 and 2009 season provided he is available whenever Pakistan needs him for national duty.

South Australia confirmed approaching Younis last June after they failed to convince any major Australian player and coach Mark Sorell was pleased to have Younis for his team.

"Securing a batsman of Younis' calibre will provide our young South Australian batsmen with unprecedented experience," Sorell had said.

"We are really excited by the news. We expect Younis will play a key role in making sure the Redbacks are competitive this season and ensuring our bowlers have good targets to work with," he added.

LOCAL SNIPPETS

FROM PAGE 17

SCHOOL RUGBY

St. Gregory High School came from behind to beat Rahmatullah Model High School 12-5 to clinch the Diamond Melamine School Rugby title at the outer stadium.

The winners trailed 0-5 points in the first half.

Mahbub of St Gregory, who scored match highest 10 points in the day's final, was adjudged best player of the tournament. Shahidul Islam contributed five points for Rahmatullah Model High School.

In the third-place deciding match, Islambagh Ashraf Ali High School blanked Nawabpur Govt High School 5-0 at the same venue.

POLICE FOOTBALL

Our Manikganj correspondent adds: Manikganj district police team got off to an impressive start in the Inter-District Police Football competition when they beat Dhaka district police team 4-2 in the opening match at the local police lines ground here.

Amir, Ibrahim, Rashed and Khaleq scored for the winners while Shah Alam and Farid netted the only goal for Dhaka.

SCHOOL CHESS

Our Barisal correspondent adds: A prize distribution ceremony of the Standard Chartered School Chess

competition was held yesterday. In the boys' section, Sabbyasachi Dey of Udayan School became Group A champion while Nadim Hossain clinched the Group B title.

In the girls' section, Afrin Jahon of Jagadish Saraswat Girls School won the Group A title and the Group B crown went to Arpita Das of Sadar Girls School.

A total of 141 players in four groups including 105 boys and 36 girls from twenty schools took part in the competition.

BANDARBAN FOOTBALL

Our Bandarban correspondent adds: Bandarban Eleven clinched the title of the Bandarban Hill District Council (BHDC) under-16 football tournament with a solitary goal victory over Alikadam Eleven.

Bikash netted the all-important goal.

Professor Than Jama Lushai, chairman of BHDC, distributed the prizes after the final.

BAF FOOTBALL

Base Matiur Rahman clinched the title of the inter-base football competition of Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) when they beat Base Zahurul Haque 3-1 in the final on Saturday.

Corporal Aminul of Base Kurmitola was adjudged best player of the meet.

The Kamikaze

FROM PAGE 17

world. That made me feel kind of happy and think more positive.

"I was tired too so I just tried to fight in the fifth set."

Spain's Ferrer survived the first match point in the ninth game of the fifth set by hitting a backhand winner. Nishikori was broken two points later when he miss-hit a shot off the top of his racket, allowing Ferrer to close the gap to 5-4.

"He is a very good player. He serves very well," Ferrer said. "I fought a lot but Nishikori played better than me."

Nishikori has trained for the past five years at the Bolletieri Academy in Florida after arriving in the United States without his family as a 13-year-old.

"I had two friends come with me," he said. "I couldn't speak English. I was so nervous. I was scared of everything, all the American people."

"But now it is fine."

What next

FROM PAGE 17

was unexpected but the ACA would do everything it could to get him back into the Australia team. "It was a surprise," Marsh said, "but there were issues last summer that have been well documented.

"Our role is obviously we're here to support Andrew. We've been in discussion with his manager and look to put in place the best possible support for him."

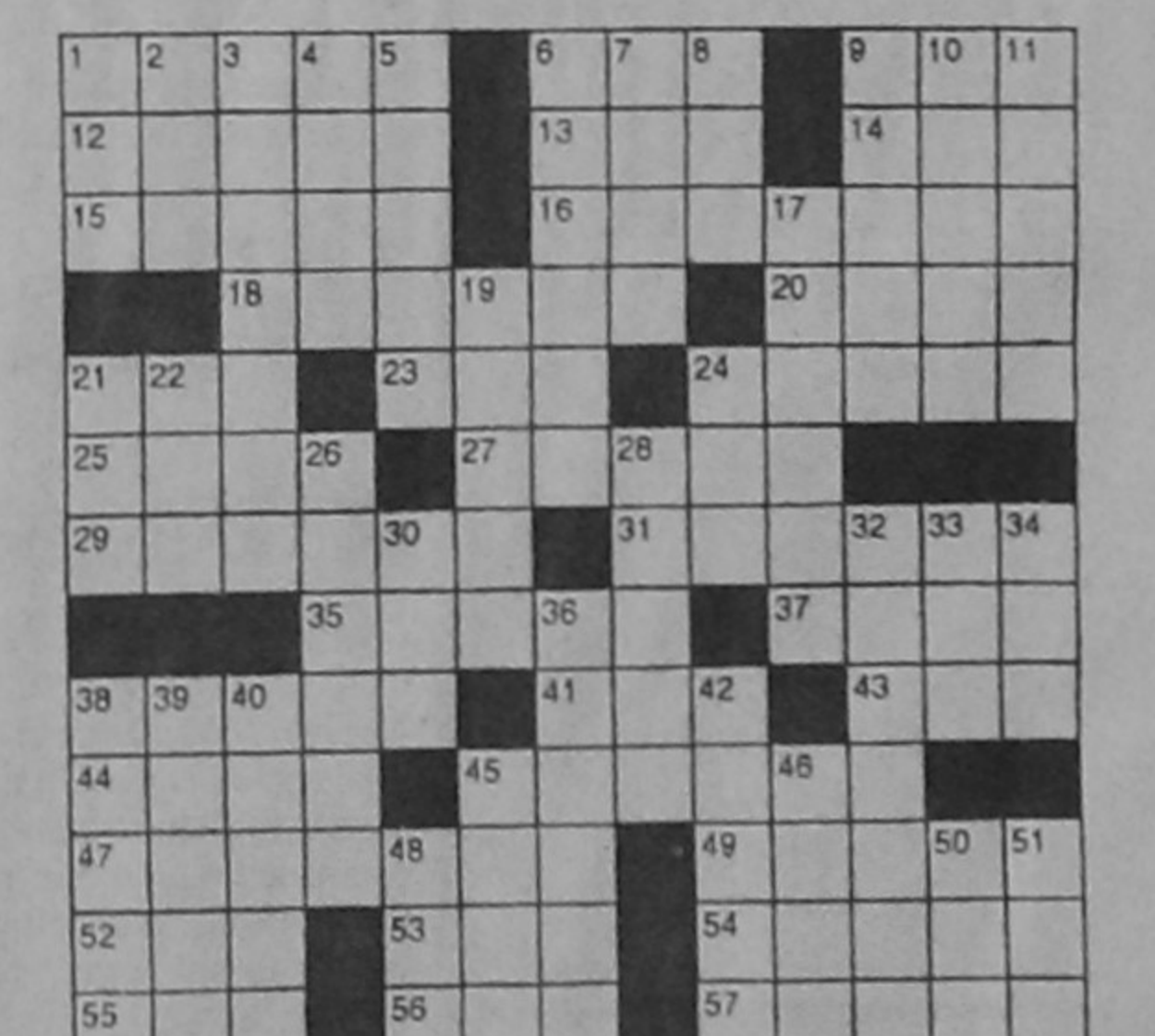
Australia maintain that a break from the game is in Symonds' best interests as well as for the good of the team, although nobody knows how long his lay-off will be. His attitude over the past few months has troubled the squad's senior figures and the coach Tim Nielsen said the fishing expedition was simply a trigger point.

"They (usually) don't miss a thing and they are always early and presented as well as they possibly can," Nielsen said. "When somebody hasn't got the information that they need or hasn't turned up on time it's usually due to the fact they're away from us and the group a little bit, mentally. That always raises concerns."

While Cricket Australia said it would do whatever it could to help Symonds, the unusual situation means it is not clear what he must do to prove his commitment. "There's no prescribed, exact process for these sorts of things," Marsh said. "We just need to get to the bottom of things and work out what's the best way to move forward."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Slings in the kitchen? 6 Anger 9 Electrical unit 12 Division symbols 13 "Casa blanca" pianist 14 Born 15 Provo false eye specialist 18 Satling 20 Mislay 21 Parisian 23 Bygone times 24 Actress Claire 25 Slamdance 27 Four-wheeled dud 29 Spud 31 Famed Israeli author 35 Unprofitable, as a situation



DOWN 1 Ray's longtime partner 2 Honest politician? 3 Ma or Casals 4 Hodgepodge 5 Family member 6 Trilby love 7 "The Amazing" 8 Ostrich's kin 9 Satirical news-paper, with "The" 10 "Steppenwolf" author 11 Apportions (out) 12 Suction 13me: 25 mins. 14 Latin American plains 15 Let 16 Up the volume 17 Cattle call? 18 Comical Del Lusa 19 "Messiah" composer 20 Estable 21 "Pluggy" 22 Hair-dresser 23 Slangy suffix 24 Menagerie 25 Summer-time quencher 26 Host 27 Tier 28 "I give up!" 29 "I didn't know!" 30 Wings 31 Altar 32 affirmative 33 Ball-bearing item 34 Mess up

CRYPTOQUIP N C D A K Q W Z P D Z F L N C J A O K D K O Q I W F Z J N Y H I Z X F K V D C Z G . G K Y O Z D K A Z D Q L K A O K V P Z I Q X I Q N C B W Q E . Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT COULD YOU CALL A FISH WHO'S ALWAYS WARY AND GUARDED? HERRING ON THE SIDE OF CAUTION. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals E