Open tennis competition

SPORTS REPORTER

Delwar of BKSP became champion in the boys singles 12year age group when he beat Wang Mai by 8-1 games in the best of fifteens yesterday.

In the semifinals of the men's singles round, Amol Roy and Ranjan Ram of Bangladesh Tennis Federation faced Alamgir Hossain and Dipu Lal of Nordic Club respectively. In the first match, Amol beat Alamgir 6-2, 6-3 and Dipu handed Ranjan a 7-6, 5-7, 6-2 defeat to qualify for the final.

Rustam Ali of NTC defeated Tanzir Ahmed of BKSP 7-5, 6-3 in the boys singles 14-year age group.

Shathi and Sharda beat Lee Na and Zed Zoba 6-3, 6-0 respectively in the women's doubles semifinals to qualify for the final. In the other semifinal, Sadia and Ayami beat Disha and Borsha 6-1,6-4. The finals will be held at the Bangladesh Tennis Federation at 3:00pm today.

TT league

SPORTS REPORTER

Last year's champions Sheikh Russel beat Biman 3-2 in a five set thriller in the last match of the first round of the KDS Dhaka Metropolitan Table Tennis Championship yesterday.

Biman, Sheikh Russel, Palolic Group, Wari Club, Armanitola and Ajax will now be competing in the Super League which starts today at 4:00pm at the wooden-floor gymnasium of the National Sports Council.

The Super League runs through February 2.

The women's league started vesterday with Abahani, Biman, Bangladesh Chemicals and Perfumery, Freedom TT Club, Lalbagh TT Academy, Dhaka Youngs and Dhaka Women's Club participating.

Indira, K'bagan

FROM PAGE 17

Badda then chased down the big target losing four of their batsmen on the last ball of the match, riding on an unbeaten 41 by Faruk.

Later in the day at this venue, Rupali Bank won by seven wickets against Dhaka Wanderers Club. Wanderers were bowled out for 146 in 19.4 overs and Rupali Bank reached the target with four balls yet to be bowled. Rupali's Rezwan scored 49 and Zobaidur remained not out on 33 to guide their side home for their second win in the tournament.

In the other match, Brothers Union also recorded their second victory beating Prime Doleshwar by six wickets at the Dhaka University Ground (DUG). Winning the toss, Prime elected to bat and scored 112-7, which Brothers overhauled in the 19th over.

In the day's last match at the DUG, Kalabagan continued their terrific run of form beating a strong Dhanmondi Club by 15 runs. Batting first Kalabagan made 133-8 in their fixed 20 overs with Salahudding top scoring with 55. Dhanmondi fell 15 short of their winning target losing eight of their wickets. Kalabagan have won all their group matches to finish top of Group B.

Abahani draw

FROM PAGE 17 In Wednesday's draw, the two-

time winners were put in Group A with Nepal Police Club, Taiwan Power Company and Pakistan's Wapda.

Kyrgyzstan's Dordoi-Dynamo, who won two straight titles before Regar-TadAZ dethroned them last year, are in Group C with Kanbawza FC of Myanmar, Cambodia's Phnom Penh Crown and Yeezdin FC of

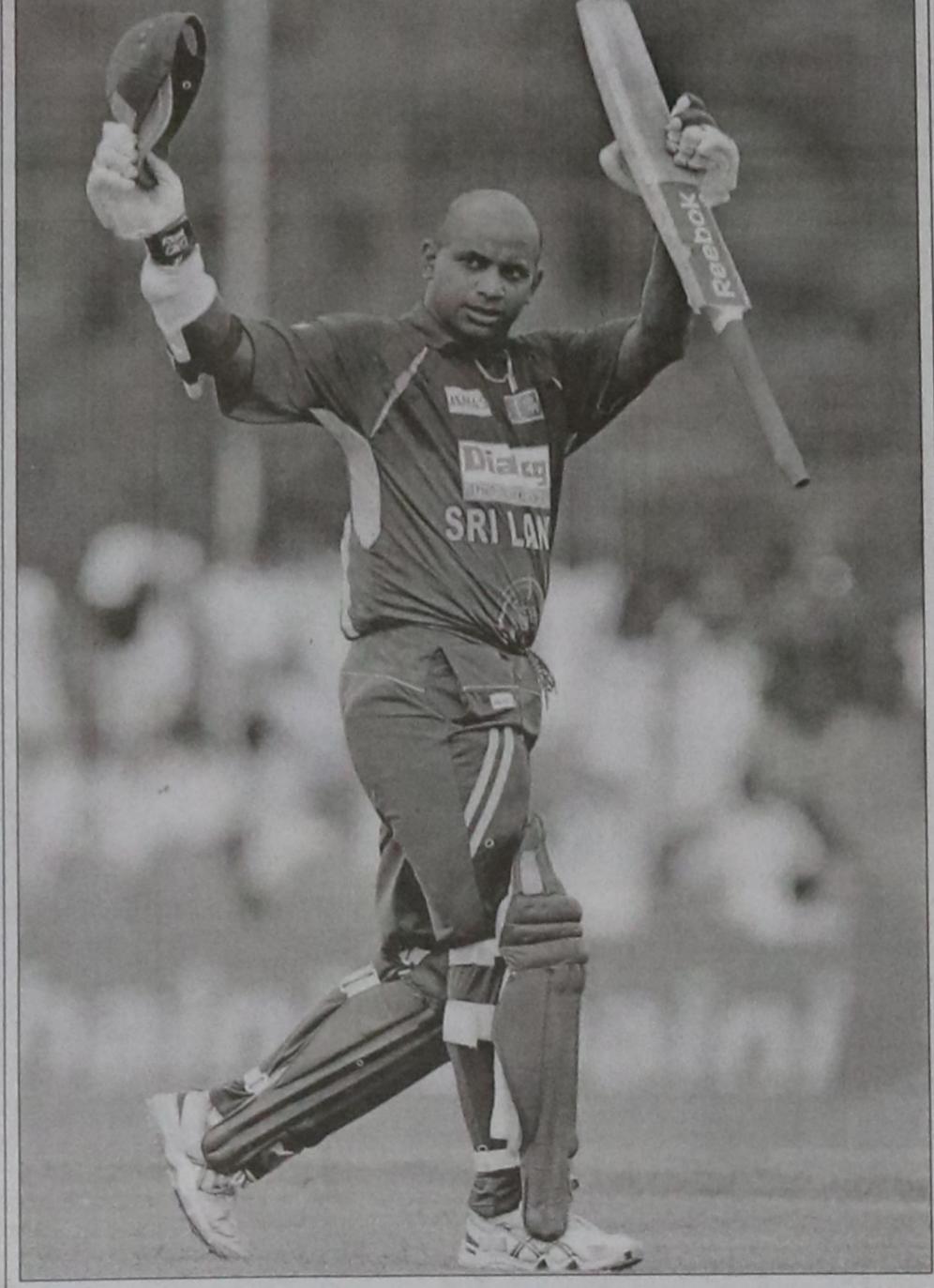
Bhutan. Nepal Police will host all matches in Group A with the hosts for Groups B and Cyet to

be announced. THE DRAW

Group A: Regar-TadAZ (Tajikistan), Nepal Police Club (Nepal), Taiwan Power Company (Chinese-Taipei), Wapda (Pakistan).

Group B: Ashgabat (Turkmenistan). Sri Lanka Army (Sri Lanka), Abahani

Limited (Bangladesh). Group C: Dordoi-Dynamo (Kyrgyzstan), Kanbawza (Myanmar), Phnom Penh Crown (Cambodia), Yeezdin FC (Bhutan).



Sri Lanka opening batsman Sanath Jayasuriya raises his bat to celebrate scoring a century during the first one-day international against India at the Rangiri Dambulla International Stadium in Dambulla yesterday.

Serena battles thru'

peratures soared to 41 degrees Celsius (106 F). The roof was finally closed on the Rod Laver Arena and Williams was a beneficiary.

The three-time champion was a set down to Russia's Svetlana Kuznetsova at the time but recovered her composure against the fuming eighth seed to run out a 5-7, 7-5, 6-1 winner.

It earned the experienced American a shot at ice-cool Russian Elena Dementieva, who powered past unseeded Spaniard Carla Suarez Navarro 6-2, 6-2. The other semifinal sees third seed Dinara

Safina play her Russian compatriot Vera Williams looked in serious trouble as she

struggled in the first set of her match but was granted a reprieve when the stadium roof was closed early in the second set under the tournament's extreme heat policy.

The 28-year-old admitted the move made a huge difference.

"I was in a lot of trouble today but I just relaxed and I really wanted to fight and at least go three sets," she said.

"I said 'Serena you can do it' -- it's when I play my best."

was yet to hit top form.

"It's really encouraging (to win) because this she said of Williams.

whole tournament I felt I've been off and I haven't been playing my best," she said.

Kuznetsova handled the heat better but could not cope with the pressure generated by the nine-time Grand Slam champion, failing at crucial moments in the match.

The Russian was angry that they were ordered off court for the roof to be shut while she had a grip on the match.

"Yeah, I was definitely angry. Why should I not be? The game was going my way," said the 2004 US Open champion.

Dementieva, who is now on a 15-match unbeaten streak, was untroubled by giantkiller Suarez Navarro, who knocked out Venus

Williams in the second round. But she was not happy after playing her entire match, which preceded the Williams-

Kuznetsova clash, with the roof open. "Why not close the roof? Not only for the players, but for the spectators, as well," she said.

"I think if you have a roof, why not use it?" She was nevertheless relieved to overcome the dangerous Suarez Navarro and set up a

showdown with Williams. "You don't know what to expect from her. All

Despite making the last four, she said she the matches that we play, all the last three matches, were completely different games,"

India off to a flier

Bowler

FROM PAGE 17

left-arm spinner Pragyan Ojha over long-on for the first six of Skipper Mahela Jayawar- Mendis.

dene's poor run with the bat continued as he made just 11 to remain without a half-century 245. in his last 13 one-dayers. SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the first oneday international between Sri Lanka and India at Rangiri Dambulla International Stadium on Wednesday: SRILANKA

Dilshan run out 0 Jayasuriya c Patel b Zaheer 107 Sangakkara c Raina b Ojha 44 Kandamby c Zaheer b I Sharma Maharoof b I Sharma Jayawardene c R Sharma bISharma

Thushara not out his half-century, once hoisting Kulasekara not out Extras: (nb-2, w-3) Total: (For seven wkts in 50 overs) 246

Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-118, 3-169, 4-171, 5-204, 6-222, 7-

OMRW

| Zaheer | 10 | 2 | 40 | |
|-------------|-----|------|------|----|
| Patel | 5 | 0 | 32 | |
| ISharma | 10 | 1 | 52 | |
| Ojha | 10 | 0 | 52 | |
| YPathan | 7 | 0 | 32 | |
| Raina | 4 | 0 | 16 | |
| RSharma | 4 | 1 | 22 | |
| INDIA | | | | |
| Gambhir | C | Kan | dam | ıl |
| b Muralidan | | | | |
| Tendulkarl | bwb | Thus | hara | |
| Dainamino | | | | 1 |

Rainarunout Yuvraj c Muralidaran b Maharoof 23 Dhoninotout 15 R Sharma not out

Extras: (lb-8, nb-1, w-8) Total: (For four wkts in 48.1 overs) 247 Did not bat: Y Pathan, Zaheer, Ojha, I Sharma, Patel. Did not bat: Muralidaran, Fall of wickets: 1-13, 2-126, 3-137, 4-181.

R W Bowler Kulasekara 7 32 Thushara 35 Maharoof 0 47 Mendis Muralidaran10 0 52 Dilshan 5.1 0 29 Result: India won by six wickets. Man-of-the-match: Sanath Jayasuriya.

Toss: India Umpires: Brian Jerling (RSA) and Kumar Dharmasena Match referee: Chris Broad

(ENG)

Second one-dayer: Colombo (Saturday)

Sky-Blues closer to title

Khulna Abahani 16

Kapugedera run out

ball possession against the second-from-bottom side but hardly showed any signs of going all out keep the scoreline slim. for a second goal although chances came aplenty. Substitute Tipu dodged past a Reds defender in the 67th minute with Ibrahim's through but the

veteran striker's shot went straight to James. A minute later, Tipu got back possession but his effort from 15 yards skimmed the upright.

Abahani could have made it 2-0 -- the result of the first-leg clash between the two sides -- but for James's spectacular save in the 76th minute. Zahed Parvez exchanged passes with Tipu and

| POINTS TABLE | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|----|-----|---|----|----|----|-----|--|--|
| Teams | M | W | D | L | GF | GA | Pts | | |
| Abahani | 17 | 13 | 2 | 2 | 34 | 7 | 41 | | |
| Russel | 17 | 10 | 5 | 2 | 36 | 18 | 35 | | |
| Mohammedan | 16 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 32 | 11 | 32 | | |
| Brothers | 16 | 7 | 7 | 2 | 25 | 16 | 28 | | |
| Ctg MSC | 16 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 19 | 11 | 27 | | |
| Farashganj | 16 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 22 | 16 | 23 | | |
| Rahmatganj | 16 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 18 | 20 | 20 | | |
| Ctg Abahani | 17 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 12 | 19 | 17 | | |
| Arambagh | 17 | . 2 | 5 | 10 | 11 | 27 | 11 | | |
| | 40 | - | 0 | 44 | -7 | 20 | 0 | | |

1 1 14 9 48

Ibrahim to get inside the area but his powerful shot was blocked by James, who left his post to

It was the 11th loss for Muktijoddha, who stuck to nine points after 16 outings. Yellowcard: Ibrahim (Abahani)

TEAMS

ABAHANI: Biplab, Siraji, Nazrul, Sujan, Waly, Zahed, Joy (Tipu), Pranotosh, Abul (Tushar), Emeka and Ibrahim.

MUKTIJODDHA: James, Apu, Ddumba, Davis (Bipul), Rony, Sentu, Biddyut (Moni), Tajul, Titu, Kanchan and Walid (Milon). Referee: Abdul Hannan

TOP GOAL SCORERS

14 goals: Alfaz (Russel) 13 goals: Bukola (Mohammedan) 12 goals: Idris (Rahmatganj), Emeka (Abahani) 11 goals: Emily (Abahani) 10 goals: Enamul (Farashganj)

7 goals: Robin (Mohammedan) 6 goals: Henry (Brothers), Raphael (Chittagong Mohammedan), Sakhawat Rony (Chittagong Abahani) 5 goals: Youness, Omari (Russel), Nasir (Mohammedan), Zahid (Brothers)

PNG claim top spot

AFP, Buenos Aires

Papua New Guinea stood proudly on top of the World Cricket League Division Three on Tuesday following their upset 26-run victory against Uganda thanks to four wickets from Jamie Brazier.

And with Afghanistan and Hong Kong also recording victories on a dramatic day of action in Buenos Aires, the race to secure the two remaining places at the ICC Cricket World Cup Qualifier is wide

Martin Gleeson, coach of Papua New Guinea, was delighted that his side secured one of the surprise wins of the day, after defeating previous Division Three champions Uganda.

"It was a great result for us. There is still a bit of work to do and there is some room for improvement, but we have got the bowling right," said Gleeson.

"We are very disciplined and we have worked very hard on our bowling. We have good variety, with pace, spin and some medium-pace and have worked on getting the right line and length."

Afghanistan coach Kabir Khan praised the spirit of his team after yet another dramatic victory, narrowly scraping past Argentina by 19 runs.

In the other game of the day, Hong Kong handed Cayman Islands a third straight defeat, to keep Tabarak Dar's dream of ICC Cricket World Cup Qualification alive.

Hong Kong posted a target of 210 all out off 46.3 overs, with Manoj Cheruparambil hitting an impressive 83, the highest individual score of the tournament so far, with good support from Roy Lamsam

And a regular flurry of wickets saw Cayman Islands finally dismissed for 161 all out, 49 runs short of their target.

The top two teams from this six-nation division will make it to the ICC Cricket World Cup Qualifier in South Africa to be

held in April this year. They will face Kenya, Scotland, Netherlands, Canada, Ireland and Bermuda from Division One and UAE, Oman, Namibia and Denmark who qualified from Division Two. The top four teams from this stage will qualify for the 2011 World Cup finals.

Nat'l junior chess begins

SPORTS REPORTER

The BASIC BANK 30th National Junior Chess Championships got underway at the Bangladesh Chess Federation hall-room yesterday with 66 players winning in the opening round.

Among them are title contenders FM Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar, who is the defending champion, national women's chess runner-up Shamima Akter Liza, Abdullah Al Saif and subjunior national champion Ikramul Haque Siam.

A total 136 boys and girls from Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Barisal, Rajshahi, Gazipur, Narayanganj, Manikganj, Kushtia, Moulovibazar, Brahmanbaria, Magura, Narail, Chuadanga, Joypurhat and Mymensingh are participating in the 9round Swiss League event.

Earlier, Mohammed Mosharraf Hossain, deputy general manager of BASIC Bank Limited, inaugurated the meet as chief guest.

Miandad quits FROM PAGE 17 because I want to serve cricket," he said.

Each coaching stint for the 51-year-old has ended in acrimony. He twice fell out with the players and once was sacked following Pakistan's home defeat against archrivals India in 2004.

PCB chairman Ijaz Butt made no immediate comment on Miandad's resignation. "I am hearing this news

from the media. I am in transit and until I talk to him I have nothing to say," Butt told AFP by telephone from Dubai. Miandad played 124 Tests

for Pakistan, scoring a national

record of 8,832 runs. He also played 233 one-day internationals, scoring 7,381 runs. Butt will return home on February 6 after attending an International Cricket Council executive board meeting in

Perth, Australia. He is also scheduled to meet officials from Cricket Australia to discuss the possibility of Australia touring Pakistan later this year.

'Pak cricket in a mess'

Cricket

AFP, Karachi

President Asif Ali Zardari to cricket, which he said was in as much of a mess as the country.

help Pakistan cricket then he must allow it to be an institution. It should be constitutionsentatives," Imrantold AFP. Pakistan's cricketing woes

captain by Younis Khan following the team's humiliating game. 234-run loss -- their worst one-day defeat -- handing win last week.

major reshuffle in as many months. In October Zadari below?" said Imran, who appointed Ijaz Butt chairman played 88 Tests for Pakistan. of the cricket board, following Nasim Ashraf's resignation. cricket in 1992, now heads his Butt then sacked Australian own political party -- overhaul and we should do it coach Geoff Lawson for poor Movement for Justice (Tehrik- quickly otherwise time will team performance.

"Our cricket is as much in a post on the cricket board. the mess as is the country,"

said Imran. their only World Cup triumph, Former Pakistan captain in Australia in 1992, and is now Imran Khan Wednesday urged in politics, said the country's head of state appointing the reform the national game of cricket board chairman was the bane of Pakistan cricket.

"No way should the presi-"If Zardari really wants to dent of the country appoint the cricket chief," said Imran. The president of Pakistan is patron of the cricket board based and have an elected and appoints its chairman, chairman with elected repre- unlike in countries abroad in which the chairman is elected.

Imran said cricket needed saw Shoaib Malik replaced as to be organised properly in a country obsessed with the

"Why can't Pakistan cricket be based on successful models visitors Sri Lanka a 2-1 series like Australia, South Africa and New Zealand, where the talent The change was the third is concentrated in six regional teams set up by nurseries

Imran, who retired from e-Insaaf) -- and has never held run out."

Imran ridiculed a suggestion from Zardari to host a Imran, who led Pakistan to round-table conference to

resolve cricketing matters. "Cricket is run on an ad hoc basis in the country, so the president is now suggesting a round-table conference without knowing that the previous regime of Nasim Ashraf wasted millions on such conferences to no avail."

Imran said the saddest aspect was that the team was going from bad to worse.

"Ever since the 1992 World Cup win and the 1999 runnerup finish, the performance graph is having a downhill trajectory. In 2003 and 2007, we were ousted in the first rounds," he said.

Imran, regarded as one of the top four all-rounders of his time, said the country's entire cricket structure needed an overhaul.

"Our domestic cricket is incapable of polishing a talented youngster, so it needs an

rankings in the list would play

off for a spot in the qualifica-

Mongolia in a two-legged

play-off, whose first leg will be

hosted by Macau on March 7.

The return leg takes place in

Mongolia on March 14, with

the winner joining the qualifi-

C stood out as the most inter-

esting to watch, what with

Nepal, who are hosting the

section, finding themselves

alongside Afghanistan,

Sri Lanka, Pakistan,

Chinese Taipei and Brunei

Darussalam have been pooled

in Group D, while Group B will

see Turkmenistan, the

Philippines, Bhutan and

The winners of each group

and the best second-placed

team from among the groups

Maldives fight it out.

Kyrgyzstan and Palestine.

In the draw proper, Group

cation battle.

This pits Macau against

Abahani on top FROM PAGE 17 teams according to the FIFA

FROM PAGE 17

wickets as Partex defeated Old DOHS by six wickets to record their first victory in three

Old DOHS scored 99 for eight while Partex achieved the target for the loss of four wickets with one ball remaining. BRIEFSCORES

MOHAMMEDAN: 115-7 in 20

overs (Shamsur 36, Farhad 24, Marshal 21 not out, extras 13; Mashrafe 2-18, Zia 3-25, Sunny ABAHANI: 119-2 in 17.3 overs Shafaq 1-32).

Shuvo 1-11). Result: Abahani won by eight wickets.

BKSP: 81-9 in 20 overs

(Rony 18, Imran 36, Sahagir 41

not out, extras 13; Dollar 1-28,

(Mominul 24, extras 7; Shahadat 2-6, Razzak 2-12, Nabil 3-9, Shahajada 2-15). BIMAN: 82-4 in 18 overs (Javed 22 not out, Mushfigur 25, extras 9; Riaz 2-19, Furkan 2-11).

Result: Biman won by six wickets. SURJO TORUN: 135-6 in 20 overs (Hannan 26, Rajin 24, Anisur 35 not out, extras 8;

Ashraful 2-30). CCS: 113-6 in 20 overs (Uttam 20, Nazmul 45, extras 3; Mustakim 2-22).

Result: Surjo Torun won by 22 OLD DOHS: 99-8 in 20 overs (Imtiaz 29, Kafi 28, extras 11; Rezaul Haque 5-12)

PARTEX: 100-4 in 19.5 overs (Ashraful 22, extras 9) Result: Partex won by six wickets.

PEGASUS: 121-7 in 20 overs (Zubaer 35, Maruf 23, extras 28; Aslam 2-13)

VICTORIA: 116-8 in 20 overs (Shrifullah 45 not out, Bashar Result: Pegasus won by five

CITY: 118-8 in 20 overs (Lalmohon 29, Hamidur 35, extras 13; Younus 3-18, Mukter 2-16, Ashraful 2-19).

GAZI TANK: 122-2 in 19 overs

(Mithun 48, Nafis 35 not out, Ashraful 25 not out, extras 9; Result: Gazi Tank won by eight wickets.

Div III soccer

SPORTS REPORTER

BKSP beat the Muslim Institute 3-2 yesterday in the opening encounter of the Citycell Third Division Football League at the Birshreshtho Sipahi Mustafa Kamal National Stadium at Kamalapur.

Faruk Hossain of BKSP scored two goals in the 2nd and 53rd minutes and Masud Rana scored the other in the 35th minute. Earlier in the day, Bangladesh Football Federation's technical director

Shahidur Rahman Shantu

robin format.

THETEAMS GROUPA Myanmar, Cambodia, Bangladesh (hosts), Macau/ Mongolia GROUPB

advance to the finals.

Turkmenistan, The Philippines, Bhutan, Maldives (hosts) GROUPC inaugurated the event. 18 | Nepal (hosts), Afghanistan,

teams, split into two groups, are Kyrgyzstan, Palestine participating in the league with GROUPD Sri Lanka (hosts), Pakistan, the teams playing the first Chinese Taipei, Brunei round of matches in a round

Darussalam



PHOTO: COURTESY Mohammed Mosharraf Hossain, deputy general manager of Basic Bank Limited, makes a move to mark the inauguration of the Basic Bank 30th National Junior Chess Championships at the Bangladesh Chess Federation hall room yesterday.

By Eugene Sheffer

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WBUJPF "KQQ. ODIKDF!"

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF AN ENORMOUS THICK-SKINNED MAMMAL SPEAKS RASHLY. COULD YOU SAY IT SHOOTS FROM THE HIPPO?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals A

CRYPTOQUIP