

Army swimmers back in camp

SPORTS REPORTER

Out of eight swimmers of Bangladesh Army, five joined the swimming camp for the South Asian (SA) Games yesterday, said Bangladesh Swimming Federation officials.

Korean coach Park Tae Gun did not get his full squad of 25-members when he resumed camp on September 24 after Eid-ul-Fitr vacation, as eight Army swimmers reportedly declined to join the camp citing poor food conditions and environment at the National Swimming Complex in Mirpur as the reason.

Before the vacation, the camp was shifted to the Army swimming complex following renovation work at the national swimming pool.

Waugh, Akram

FROM PAGE 17

"This honour is the perfect icing on the cake of a decent career. It is a great feeling to know your contribution and achievements in this fascinating sport are being acknowledged in such a way," he said.

Tamim calls

FROM PAGE 17

the players.

"If the cricketers can play their own game, the success will come automatically," Mashud said. "I had earlier seen the Mohammedan players could not perform well according to their merit, and this time I will share my experience with each of the players to bring the best from them."

Hard-hitter Aftab Ahmed was much more happy to return to the mainstream cricket after his one-year exile to the ICC un-approved Indian Cricket League (ICL).

"I forgot everything of the past year after having practiced with the Mohammedan team today (Wednesday) and it seems to me that I was not out of the domestic cricket. To be honest, I feel really better after a long time," said Aftab Ahmed.

He was also determined to return to the national fold.

"I know it very well what will I have to do and if I can perform well, it will not be hard to secure a place of the national team."

Mohammedan have signed up ten new players. They are Tamim, Ashraful, Mashud, Riyad, Imtiaz Khan, Nabil Samad, Raihan Uddin Arafat, Saqlaine Sajib and Shahjada Hossain.

Surjo Torun signed up three players including national pacer Mahbubul Alam Robin on the second day with captain Habibul Bashar and Dhiman Ghosh accompanying the three cricketers.

"I would try to retain the results what the club achieved last season though it would be challenging," said Bashar, who is all set to captain Surjo Torun this year.

Dhiman Ghosh, who was once mired in controversy amidst his comments during joining the ICL, said that he was now feeling remorse for his comments and that he was determined to return to the national fold through good performance.

Besides, Old DOHS roped in 13 players and Victoria recruited nine players on the second day bourse.

Beanibazar

FROM PAGE 17

however, squandered three easy sitters in the second half.

In the second match of the day, Army went ahead with a 21-minute goal from Azmal before Shahin doubled the margin in the 33rd minute.

Tutul struck the third goal in the 73rd minute to see off Farashganj SC coached by Abu Yousuf.



Did U Know?

The first basketball game was held on January 20 in 1892. The court was half the size of courts used at the NBA League nowadays and only one point was scored in the whole match. In this game, there were nine players in each team.



Jelena Jankovic of Serbia makes a return against Elena Vesnina of Russia during their third round match of the Pan Pacific Open in Tokyo yesterday.

Maria, Jelena thru'

Tennis

AFP, Tokyo

Crowd-favourite Maria Sharapova stormed into the quarterfinals by beating fellow Russian Alisa Kleybanova in the Pan Pacific Open tennis tournament on Wednesday.

The former world number one, the champion here in 2005, fired an array of lightning service return winners for a come-from-behind 2-6, 6-2, 6-2 victory over her 29th-ranked compatriot.

Sharapova, now ranked 25th, double-faulted on a break point to lose the opening game and failed to recover the deficit as she hit a backhand shot that landed in the net on Kleybanova's first set point.

But Sharapova was never really in danger, taking a comfortable 5-0 lead in the second set and 5-2 in the third before forcing Kleybanova to hit a return wide on the first match point, to finish off in two hours four minutes.

Another former world number one, Jelena Jankovic of Serbia, dominated Elena Vesnina before the Russian abandoned the match with a left thigh problem at 6-1, 3-0.

Jankovic was the highest ranked player at seventh here.

It came after defeats for world number one and defending champion Dinara Safina, the fellow Russians French Open champion Svetlana Kuznetsova and Beijing Olympic champion Elena Dementieva, US Open finalist Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark and American Venus Williams.

"It's a different feeling playing for the number one, or just playing tour to play in the championships. So it's a challenge. I just want to do my best," said Jankovic.

In the quarterfinals on Thursday, Jankovic will take on 14th seed Marion Bartoli of France, who outclassed Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova of Russia 4-6, 6-2, 7-5.

"I go out there and do my best and what I can do. I know how I have to play. We'll see," said Jankovic.

Sharapova will play Iveta Benesova of the Czech Republic, the winner over qualifier Chang Kai-chen of Taiwan 7-5, 6-2. Chang shocked Safina in the second round on Monday.

In other third-round action, Asia's number one Li Na of China made a great come back victory from one set down and 4-5 to beat Kateryna Bondarenko of Ukraine 2-6, 7-5, 6-3.

Strauss lauds

FROM PAGE 17

charge, ably assisted by Shane Bond, who regained his form after two poor outings to capture three wickets.

And while the Kiwi middle order crumbled, openers Martin Gupthill (53 off 55) and McCullum (48 from 39) raced to an 84-run stand that ultimately took the game away from England.

Strauss admitted they had been defeated by a class outfit on a track not conducive to batting.

"We were soundly beaten today," he said. "The wicket obviously did a lot early on and as a batsman you needed some luck to survive. All credit to the New Zealand bowlers."

He also applauded Gupthill and McCullum.

"They were able to score the bulk of the runs very quickly and by the time we were able to exert some pressure, it was too late," admitted Strauss.

U-16 booters

FROM PAGE 17

OFFICIALS Rahman Babul (team leader), Zakir Hossain Shaheen (team manager), Bayazid Alam Zubair Nipu (head coach), Sukar Mohammad Totam (Asst Coach), Dr. Md. Ali Emran (Team Doctor), Ashikur Rahman Habibe Rabbi (Media Officer).

Aus sneak into semis

FROM PAGE 17

Pakistan captain Younus Khan admitted he never expected such a tight finish: "We suddenly came good and took wickets. Some of our bowling was fantastic on a track that was a little soft but good."

Pakistan were never comfortable on a seam-friendly wicket and openers Kamran Akmal and Shahid Afridi compiled only 30 when the partnership was terminated on an overcast day.

Afridi was forced to play a pull off Mitchell Johnson and James Hopes covered ground quickly to take the catch as Pakistan struggled to match the form that reaped 302 runs against India last weekend.

Kamran also paid dearly for attempting a pull off Watson and the ball took a bottom edge into leg stump to leave Pakistan 75-2 approaching the 20-over mark.

Tutul struck the third goal in the 73rd minute to see off Farashganj SC coached by Abu Yousuf.

Johnson joined the Australian 100 ODI wicket club with a soft one as Shoaib Malik attempted a drive only to send the ball straight to Ponting at short cover.

Mohammed Yousuf and Misbahul Haq consolidated the innings with a 63-run fifth-innings partnership.

wicket stand before the former was caught by Cameroon White trying to steer a Brett Lee delivery over midwicket.

Misbah hit his wicket in the final over and the most unpredictable team in world cricket must have sensed they had not scored enough runs to avoid losing and slipping to second spot on the table.

After ducks against the Windies and India, Watson was desperate for runs and struck five boundaries in a brisk 24 before Gul deceived him and the ball edged to Kamran.

Fellow opener Tim Paine departed three overs later, trapped leg before by Afridi spin, then 'old hands' Ponting and Hussey added 81 runs for the third wicket.

Ponting made 32 off twice as many balls and managed just one boundary before a spectacular Gul catch off a Shoaib Malik delivery sent the Australian skipper back to the pavilion.

Replacement Callum Ferguson made just seven off 18 balls before he was bowled by Saeed Ajmal, whose low, swift delivery uprooted the middle and leg stumps.

A Rana Naved yorke proved the undoing of Hussey, who could not get his bat down sufficiently quickly and was bowled having faced 87 balls and scoring six fours and one six.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Champions Trophy match between Australia and Pakistan at SuperSport Park on Wednesday:

PAKISTAN Akmal c Watson 44 Afridi c Hopes b Johnson 15 Younus c Johnson b Hopes 18 Malik c Ponting b Johnson 27 Yousuf c White b Lee 45 Misbahul hit wicket b Watson 41 Umar Akmal not out 2 Navedul not out 7 Extras: (w-6) 6 Total: (For 6 wks in 50 overs) 205 Fall of wickets: 1-30, 2-75, 3-89, 4-123, 5-186, 6-198

Did not bat: Umar Gul, Mohammad Asif and Saeed Ajmal.

Bowler O M R W Lee 10 0 30 1 Siddie 5 0 24 0 Johnson 10 0 45 2 Watson 8 0 32 2 Hopes 10 0 50 1 Hauritz 7 1 24 0

Extras: (w-6) 6 Total: (For 6 wks in 50 overs) 205

Fall of wickets: 1-30, 2-75, 3-89, 4-123, 5-186, 6-198

Did not bat: Umar Gul, Mohammad Asif and Saeed Ajmal.

Bowler O M R W Lee 10 0 30 1 Siddie 5 0 24 0 Johnson 10 0 45 2 Watson 8 0 32 2 Hopes 10 0 50 1 Hauritz 7 1 24 0

Extras: (b-1, w-12, nb-1) 14 Total (For 8 wks in 50 overs) 206

Fall of wickets: 1-44, 2-59, 3-140, 4-157, 6-175, 7-176, 8-187

Did not bat: Peter Siddie

Bowler O M R W Gul 9 1 38 1 Asif 8 0 34 2 Afridi 10 0 47 1 Rana Naved 9 2 39 1 Ajmal 10 1 31 2 Shoaib 4 0 16 1

Result: Australia won by two wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Michael Hussey (AUS)

Steyn wants trophies

CRICINFO, undated



Dale Steyn insists South Africa will never truly consider themselves the world's pre-eminent team until they break their big-tournament jinx and claim an ICC Trophy. South Africa entered the Champions Trophy as the world's top-ranked team, only to crash out in the first round and perpetuate the "chokers" tag that has haunted them for a decade.

The South Africans have in the past dismissed suggestions of wilting under the spotlight, but Steyn believes the time has come for the team to conduct a thorough review of their approach to big tournaments. The world's top-ranked Test fast bowler admitted the lack of ICC trophies was gnawing at his teammates, and tainting their status as the best team in international cricket.

"You want to win silverware, you want to be known as a team that walks in to a competition and is able to dominate," Steyn told Cricinfo's Switch-Hit podcast. "Being ranked No. 1 in Tests and ODIs is a fantastic feeling but every year it changes and it works on points. You won't be able to take home any silverware from that. Unfortunately, my grandkids will never be able to look at me and say I won a Champions Trophy in South Africa. That's where it truly lies. It's a reflection of how well you've played. When you walk into a tournament those rankings really mean nothing."

"I'm (looking at) 2-0 now -- two tournaments in one year and we haven't been able to bring home any silverware. It is disappointing, we want to be the best team in the world, we want to be two steps ahead of other sides. It's something

that we really have to sit down and look at. People are saying we're the No. 1 team because of ranking, but it doesn't mean anything once you walk onto a cricket field. We've got to sit back and look at ways of trying to stay two steps ahead. Teams will catch up and will try and take your ideas to be able to stay at the top... so it's something for us to really look at now."

The failure to reach the semifinals of the Champions Trophy continued a worrying trend for South Africa at ICC events. Not since the inaugural Champions Trophy 11 years ago has a South African side claimed a major tournament, and their most recent exits from the World Cup, the World Twenty20 and, now, a Champions Trophy at home have prompted another round of questions over the team's ability to cope with the pressures of the game's grandest stages.

South Africa's 55-run defeat in a rain-affected match against Sri Lanka was only mildly surprising, given the strength of Kumar Sangakkara's side and the fact that South Africa had not played an international match since the World Twenty20 in June. Far more shocking was their 22-run loss to England -- a team barely a week removed from ignominy of a 6-1 ODI series defeat to Australia -- in a result that sealed their Champions Trophy exit.

England will return to South Africa next month for a winter Test and ODI tour, and Steyn predicts Andrew Strauss' men will encounter a more torrid time. "They came back from the Ashes series and one-day series a bit of a wounded animal," he said. "It's always like that when you're dealing with teams like that. They've almost got nothing to lose. They came out and played fearless cricket and it really paid off for them."

"I think coming back to South Africa

for their ODI and Test series will be different. They know that they're going to be playing against one side for the whole summer and they're going to have to play their cards pretty right, whereas in this respect they can play fearless cricket because anybody that gets thrown in their direction they're quite happy to tackle."

"The last time I played against England in South Africa they beat us ... (but) England will also know that they're playing against a Test team that's already beaten them. That might be in the back of their heads. It's been the same players for the last couple of years. We know them. We know what their strengths and weaknesses are. It's just a matter of being able to sit back, do our homework and trying to stay two steps ahead this time around."

Steyn supported the calls of his chief executive, Gerald Majola, and chairman of selectors, Mike Procter, for Graeme Smith and Mickey Arthur to be retained as South Africa captain and coach respectively. Both have been the target of criticism in the wake of their side's Champions Trophy exit, but with South Africa still ranked No. 1 in Test cricket and No. 3 in ODIs, Steyn is adamant change is not required.

"At the end of the day, everyone's going to point fingers at your coach and your captain," he said. "(But) I will put up my hand and say that there are eleven players in the team and we take responsibility whether we win or lose. I feel massively for Mickey and Graeme. They've done extremely well over the last couple of years, basically herding this team together and looking after us. We've been a pretty tight unit over the last couple of years. Unfortunately, we just haven't been able to bring home the silverware in tournaments like this."

Kevin's race against time

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Kevin Pietersen has revealed his surgically-treated Achilles has yet to completely heal, and faces a "difficult time-scale" to be fit for the opening stages of England's winter tour of South Africa. Pietersen had initially hoped to take part in the Champions Trophy after his right Achilles was operated on in July, but an infection a month later set back his recovery time considerably.

Speaking to Sky Sports,

Pietersen said the healing process had been frustrating, but expressed confidence that he would be able to return to training within a fortnight. "I am trying to get as fit as possible as quick as I can. I have had a few setbacks and I am really frustrated. It will be a couple of weeks before it totally heals over -- the next 10 to 14 days -- then I can start working really hard. "The time-scale is difficult but I will definitely be doing everything I can to get on that first plane to South Africa which is at the end of October. I might be a few days off that

but I will certainly be in the Test squad. I am really pushing for the one-dayers, but the Twenty20s might be a rush."

Pietersen is understandably enthused at the prospect of completing his first Test tour of South Africa. His maiden ODI tour of his country of origin remains one of his career highlights, with three centuries coming from just five innings at a time when South African sentiment was firmly against him. Pietersen scored two further centuries against the South Africans in the home Test series last year, during which he was elevated to the England captaincy.

"For obvious reasons, it is a very important trip for me," he said. "For the team as well after the Ashes to take the momentum forwards. We want to have our best team out there."

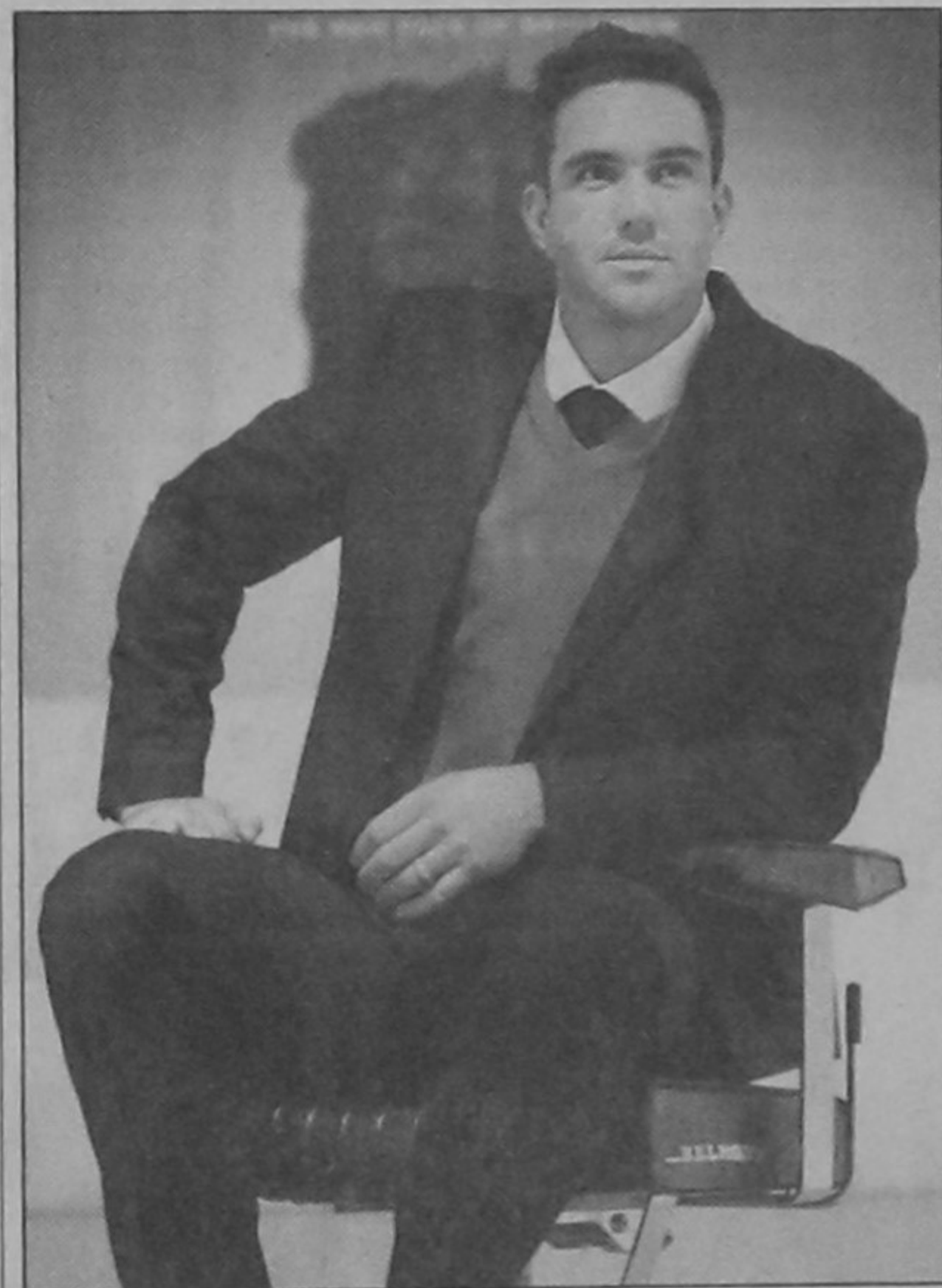
Miandad

FROM PAGE 17

about the pitches in the Champions Trophy. "Even the length of boundaries is varying at the two grounds. They should have more venues for the tournament. Too many matches at one venue is adding to the problems," he said.

Miandad said the toss at the venue gave an unfair advantage and made the matches one-sided. However, out of the eight completed matches so far, the sides winning the toss have won only four times.

Before the start of the tournament, there was a lot of debate over the sustainability of one-day cricket, with Sachin Tendulkar suggesting the format be altered to have two innings of 25 overs each. The general response to Champions Trophy was expected to play a major role in deciding the future of ODIs.

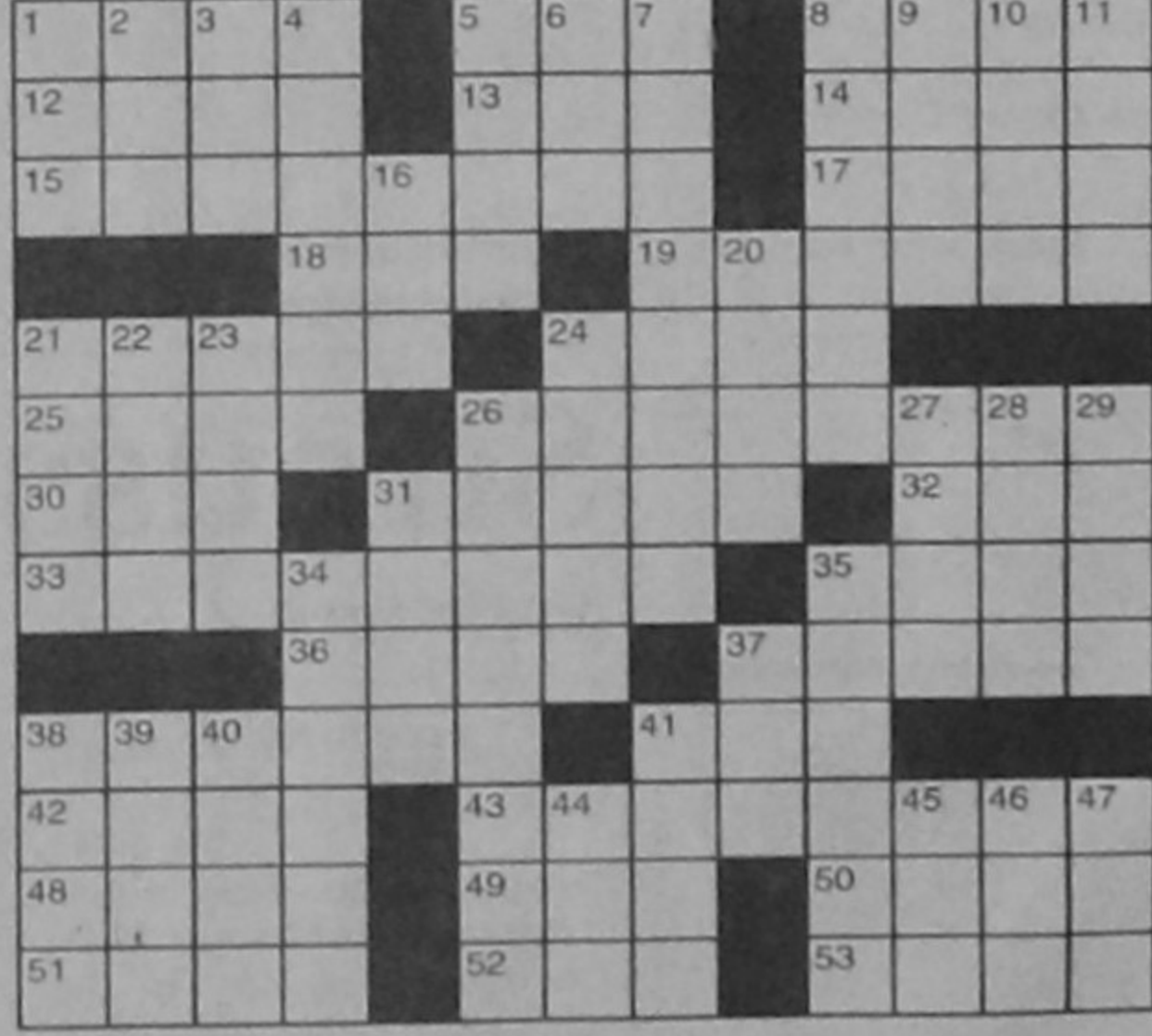


England batsman Kevin Pietersen poses for photographs promoting a hair-cream brand in central London on Tuesday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Send forth kindness yet? 5 Radio watch-dog org. 8 Tarzan's mate 12 Exposed 13 Blunder 14 Reed instru-ment 15 Shiner 17 Get better 18 Smack 19 Careless-ness? 21 Alley "oops"? 24 Fed 25 Great Lake 26 Haughty sort 30 In medias — 31 Audit, perhaps 32 Literary collection 33 Decorative cutout 35 Eccentricity 36 "We'll tak' — o' kindness yet" 37 Tennessee county 38 Palin's bailiwick 41 Awful 42 Society newbies 43 Yuletide refrain words 48 Sandwich shop 49 Poolroom stick 50 Con 51 Terrier type 52 Shri! bark 53 — moss

DOWN 1 Recede 2 — de mer 3 Playwright Levin 4 Computer fixer 5 Yard portions 6 Weep 7 Slapstick missile 8 One of the Bachs 9 Help a crook 10 Ark builder 11 Slithery 16 Tool set 20 Analgesic target 21 Anti-toxins 22 Get ready quickly? 23 Sylves-ter's impediment 24 Rose 26 Spiciness 27 Prison 28 Hatha-way or Heche 29 Tibetan herd 31 Ailing 34 Dog of film and TV 35 Abduct 37 Cowboy's sweetie 38 Tosses in 39 Onionlike vegetable 40 With skill 41 Gridlock sound 44 Overseas agreement? 45 Inseparable 46 Greek vowel 47 Torched



CRYPTOQUIP

M H F Q H T Y Y G W Y B G H X W T Y C H E E G W B X V C J H C E W I W N H K E G H B W X Y E M Y Y V I H Y V Q Q H J B M Y G N V K J M H K V F

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN A PERSON OR A PLACE IS TOTALLY SACRED, I SUPPOSE YOU COULD SAY IT'S WHOLLY HOLY.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals I