

Kamal meets with players, directors

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board President AHM Mustafa Kamal was introduced with the board directors, players and team management of the national cricket team at the Board's Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium office today.

The new BCB president sought cooperation from the directors and pledged his all out support and assistance in carrying Bangladesh cricket forward.

"I believe in transparency and would like to see that reflected in the BCB's overall activities. The BCB is a family and we must work together to ensure the well being of this organization. I consider myself fortunate that I am taking up this responsibility with the Board already well established and in good hands," said Kamal.

The BCB boss said his priority would be to spread and popularise the game in every part of the country.

"For Bangladesh to grow as a cricketing nation we can not keep the game limited to certain areas. My goal is to see organised cricket played in every corner of the country."

He also said that as a first step towards decentralisation future Board meetings would be held outside Dhaka in divisional headquarters and gradually they would try to go into the districts also.

The BCB boss said the players were the lifeblood of the BCB: "The Board exists because of the players. When our teams perform well it enhances the image of the BCB."

Kamal, also a top cricket official of Abahani, requested the players to work hard on their skill and fitness and concentrated on gaining consistency so that Bangladesh could become a force to reckon with.

The BCB President was presented with a floral bouquet and a National Team travel shirt by captain Masrafe Bin Mortaza.

IAAF ratifies Bolt's WRs

AFP, Monaco

Usain Bolt has had his world record sprints in the 100 and 200m at the World Athletics Championships in Berlin in August ratified by the sport's world governing body, the IAAF.

Bolt scorched to 9.58 seconds in the 100m and 19.19sec in the 200m, beating his own previous records of 9.69 and 19.58sec.

The International Association of Athletics Federations on Wednesday also ratified the championships' third world record, that of 77.96 metres achieved in the women's hammer throw by Poland's Anita Wlodarczyk.

The Pole beat the previous best of 77.80m set by Russian Tatyana Lysenko.



Dale Steyn

(South Africa fast bowler) "My grandkids will never be able to look at me and say I won a Champions Trophy in South Africa."

After being ousted from the event on their own soil.



Did U Know?

The men's javelin throw event was part of the track and field athletics programme at the 1920 Summer Olympics.



PHOTO: STAR

Captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza (R) presents Bangladesh Cricket Board's new president AHM Mustafa Kamal with a bouquet during the latter's introductory meeting with the national team members and directors of the board at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

True colours!

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bowled since the 15th over of the chase, yet promptly produced yorkers as if he had been in the nets practising them non-stop in the interim.

Fielders were diving around, the captain was trying to keep a lid on things and Australia lost six wickets for 47 runs in just over 14 overs: magic. Waqar Younis wasn't around and Wasim Akram was only in the commentary box, having just been inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame, but they lurked over this period.

That Pakistan fell just short is precisely what makes Australia, Australia. Immediately after the game, Ian Chappell explained it: Australia never beat themselves. He has said it before, but it does not diminish any on repetition. They just do not implode as other teams might under this kind of tension. You have to beat them, for they will give you nothing and there is

almost always someone who will not lie down and succumb to the madness around them.

Brett Lee and Nathan Hauritz did it here, Lee somehow squinting a drive off an outside edge through cover for a boundary, when Pakistan were favourites with 18 needed off 18 balls, off a ball he didn't pick. Countless others have done it before him. Any team other than Australia, Younis said later, would have bottled it, in a blaze of poor shots.

"I didn't think it was going to go this close with 20 overs left to be honest," Ponting said. "We sneaked over the line and we're through to the semis, the stage we wanted to beat."

Of course they did and of course they are, because they always are, irrespective of what any rankings might say. Fortunately for everyone, it took the tightest match of the tournament for them to do it.

Sky Blues back

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rattled the crossbar of their mighty opponents when a powerful header from Hadiuzzaman off a Mithun corner came off the bar.

Robin Shahedul then came close to doubling the lead inside three minutes before Ibrahim sealed the fate of the match five minutes from time as the Ghanaian striker surrounding three defenders inside the danger box cleverly sent the ball to the far post.

In the first match of the day, Golam Sarwar Tipu's Muktijoddha Sangsad were reduced to nine men but still rode on the 29-minute goal from Saifur Rahman Moni to secure a narrow win over Bangladesh Police.

Moni however was sent off in the 69th minute following his misbehaviour with referee Moinul Islam.

Moni got involved in heated exchanges with Moinul after the referee cautioned Ashraf Hossain instead

of Arup Kumar Baiddya, who was supposed to be booked for his foul. Ashraf then tackled a Policeman roughly soon after resumption and referee gave him marching order for the second bookable offence.

TEAMS

ABAHANI: Biplob, Obaidur, Samad Youssif, Rajani Kanta Barman (M Sujan), Jahangir Alam Mintu, Motiur Rahman Munna (Zahed Parvez), Pranotosh Kumar, Arif Khan Joy (Shahedul), Mehdi Hasan Ujjal, M Robin and Awudu Ibrahim.

CTG ABAHANI: Saidul Haque Sayed (Suman Barua), Jahangir Alam, Zamir Uddin, Shahidur Rahman, Khaled M Azam Biplob, M Tarek, Masud Alam, Shakawat Hossain, SM Hadiuzzaman, Nech Francis (Mozammel Haque) and Mithun Chowdhury.

Yellow cards: Pranotosh and Ibrahim (Dhaka Abahani). Referee: Azeed Rahman.

MU, Real come out on top

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It was Giggs' 150th goal for United, but the Welsh international said it didn't represent anything.

The victory sees United top their group with six points, three clear of Wolfsburg and CSKA Moscow, who beat Besiktas 2-1 thanks to goals in each half from Alan Dzгоеv and Milos Kraskic.

In an entertaining Group A encounter at Bayern Munich's Allianz Arena, the German giants and Juventus played out a scoreless draw.

Franck Ribery nearly put the home side in front after 19 minutes when the France international ghosted past two defenders, but his subsequent chip over the advancing Gianluigi Buffon also cleared the crossbar.

Juve also had their chances in the first half, and Bayern goalkeeper Hans-Joerg Butt had to be at his best on 33 minutes to save a shot by Mauro Camoranesi.

Bayern should have gone ahead on the hour-mark, but Miroslav Klose failed to convert a Ribery cross from the left,

leaving Munich on four points, level with Bordeaux, who were 1-0 winners against Maccabi Haifa thanks to a late goal from Michael Ciani.

Real Madrid top Group C with six points after building on their opening 5-2 hammering of Zurich with a 3-0 demolition of Marseille, courtesy of three goals in six frantic second-half minutes.

Ronaldo opened the scoring on 58 minutes, capitalizing on an error from Marseille goalkeeper Steve Mandanda, and the Portuguese international three minutes later won a penalty, which was converted by Kaka.

The penalty resulted in Souleymane Diawara receiving his marching orders for the sliding challenge on Ronaldo, who got his second of the game on 64 minutes to put the game beyond Marseille and maintain Real's strong start to the season under Manuel Pellegrini.

Zurich bounced back from their drubbing against Real with a shock 1-0 win at AC Milan, the only goal of the game coming from a Hannu Thinen backheel after just 10 minutes. The win

Sub-junior

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prominent games of the country. We are hunting talent through this junior and sub-junior national tournament and hopefully we will get some at the end of the meet," said Bangladesh Badminton Federation Treasurer Golam Aziz Jilani at a briefing at the local Press Club yesterday.

Secretary of Pabna DSA Abu Ishhaque Shamim, vice-president of the organization Habibur Rahman Habib, director of Square Pharmaceuticals LTD Golam Rabbani also spoke in the press conference.

The event will feature 21 girls and the sponsors Square group is happy to be a part of development of badminton in the country. Pabna had earlier hosted two national championships in which Square was sponsor.

Pabna DSA officials said that badminton has been a passion in this tranquil northern city and also hoped that the event would draw enormous enthusiasm among the local fans.

"We have taken steps to draw the audience's attention and hope that they will enjoy it," said Pabna DSA secretary Abu Ishhaque Shamim.

Gazi Tank

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Besides, the club also retained the services of all-rounder Naeem Islam, wicketkeeper Mohammad Mithun, left-arm spinner Mohammad Yunus and pacer Kamrul Islam. Pakistani all-rounder Abdul Razzak is also supposed to play for Gazi Tank, said officials.

Captain Kapali hoped that they would be able to give Gazi their first-ever Premier League title.

Nevertheless, Kapali and his ICL teammates will also try their best to retain their places on the national team and that might be a good factor for Gazi.

We have to spend a certain amount of time before being elected for the national team and I am not thinking too much about it at the moment. My main target is to perform in the Premier League and other domestic competition," said Kapali.

Apart from Gazi Tank, Old DOHS singed up national pacer Rubel Hossain, who struggled to get a team due to the controversial pool system.

Nat'l tennis

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out of an estimated budget of Tk 3.13 lakh of which half will go to the players as prize money.

The winner in the men's singles will get highest Tk 22,000, six thousand more than the winner of women's singles event.

BTF president Sahriar Alam MP, general secretary Ishraq Ahmed and sponsor company managing director SA Mallick, marketing manager GM Kamrul Hassan and tournament director Abu Saleh M Fazole Rabbi Khan were among others present at the briefing.

Solace for India

AFP, Johannesburg



Fast bowlers Ashish Nehra

and Praveen Kumar shared six wickets to set up India's consolation seven-wicket victory over under-strength West Indies in the Champions Trophy here on Wednesday.

Left-arm seamer Nehra finished with 3-31 and Kumar with 3-22 as India dismissed the West Indies for 129 before achieving the modest target with more than 17 overs to spare in the day-night match.

Virat Kohli (79 not out) and Dinesh Karthik (34) built on their bowlers' efforts with a 92-run stand for the third wicket to steer them home in an inconsequential match.

Man-of-the-match Kohli hit two sixes and nine fours in his solid 104-ball knock for his second half-century in nine one-day internationals.

But India were already knocked out of the competition following Australia's tense two-wicket win over Pakistan in a day match at Centurion on Wednesday, while the West Indies were out of the tournament before this game.

"We now have to prepare for the next one-day series against Australia (at home in October)," said India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni.

"We could have won the first game (against Pakistan) but didn't. It is important to get

into the groove. We came back well against Australia (in a rain-hit match). I am pleased with the bowlers."

Australia topped the four-team Group A with five points from three matches, followed by Pakistan (4/3), India (3/3) and the West Indies (0/3).

Australia and Pakistan advanced to the semifinals.

England will clash with Australia in the first semifinal at Centurion on Friday, while Pakistan take on New Zealand in the other semifinal here the following day.

It was the second major tournament this year after the Twenty20 World Championships in England when India had failed to qualify for the semifinals.

India also did not make it to the last-four when they hosted the Champions Trophy in 2006.

Their slim hopes before this match rested first on a Pakistan victory over formidable Australia and then beating the West Indies in a day-night game. It was all over when Australia clinched a last-ball thriller.

Darren Sammy (23), David Bernard (22) and Devon Smith (21) were the main scorers for the West Indies.

"We didn't get a lot of runs. Teams lose a lot of wickets in the first 15-20 overs and that dictates things," said West Indies captain Floyd Reifer.

"Our batting is inexperienced and we have to work on that. We bowled and fielded well. We have a lot of positives

to take back home."

India seized the initiative after winning the toss as Kumar and Nehra bagged two wickets apiece in their disciplined opening spells to reduce the West Indies to 31-4 in 11 overs on a seamer-friendly track.

Kumar struck with his sixth delivery when he had Andre Fletcher caught by former captain Rahul Dravid at first slip for no score.

Nehra then had Kieran Powell (five) and Smith caught by wicketkeeper Dhoni in the space of three deliveries to put pressure on the West Indies.

Dhoni, who turned seamer after the drinks interval, got his maiden wicket in one-day internationals with his fourth delivery when he bowled Travis Dowlin for 14. Karthik kept wickets in the remaining part of the innings.

Off-spinner Harbhajan Singh was the other impressive bowler, finishing with 2-14 off eight overs.

India made two changes from the side that shared points with Australia in a rain-hit match at Centurion on Monday, bringing in Karthik and Abhishek Nayar in place of Sachin Tendulkar (stomach infection) and paceman Ishant Sharma.

SCOREBOARD Scoreboard of the Champions Trophy match between India and the West Indies in Johannesburg on Wednesday:

WEST INDIES Fletcher c Dravid b Kumar 0

Powell c Dhoni b Nehra	5
Smith c Dhoni b Nehra	21
Dowlin b Dhoni	14
Reifer c Karthik b Kumar	1
Bernard c Dravid b Mishra	22
Sammy c Mishra b Nehra	23
Crandon b Harbhajan	5
Miller not out	17
Roach c Gambhir b Harbhajan	4
Tonge c & b Kumar	5
Extras: (lb-4, nb-1, w-7)	12
Total: (For all out in 36 overs)	129
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-26, 3-27, 4-31, 5-57, 6-89, 7-99, 8-102, 9-122.	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Kumar	9	3	22	3
Nehra	8	1	31	3
Nayar	3	0	17	0
Dhoni	2	0	14	1
Harbhajan	8	2	14	2
Mishra	6	0	27	1

INDIA	
Karthik c Dowlin b Tonge	34
Gambhir b Roach	6
Dravid run out	4
Kohli not out	79
Nayar not out	0
Extras: (nb-4, w-3)	7
Total: (For 3 wickets in 32.1 overs)	130
Did not bat: MS Dhoni, Raina, Harbhajan, P Kumar, Nehra, Mishra.	
Fall of wickets: 1-7, 2-12, 3-104.	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Roach	6	1	27	1
Tonge	10	0	36	1
Sammy	10	1	25	0
Bernard	3	0	22	0
Miller	3.1	0	20	0

Result: India won by seven wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Virat Kohli.

Old foes

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for Luke Wright. Meanwhile, Matt Prior took part in training but is still feeling the effects of his virus. Steven Davies remains on stand-by and England have ICC permission to draft him in as a replacement.

David Hussey has been called into the squad, but it would be asking a lot for him to play straight away. Australia are likely to retain the balance they used against Pakistan and will know what to expect from conditions.

It was Graeme Swann who enabled England to save face in the home series when he took 5 for 28 at Chester-le-Street and this could be the match where he comes into his own in this event. So far England's quicks have done the damage, but if the Australia-Pakistan match is any indication spin is going to play a key role. Swann relishes the battle and has had plenty of success in recent months while Australia continue to have a dodgy record against off-spin.

Brett Lee was outstanding during the series in England where he hit top speed and swung both the old and new ball. He will feel he has a hold over the English top order and provides Ricky Ponting with a strike weapon at any stage of the innings. Reverse swing was evident in the Pakistan match and if there's one bowler capable of exploiting the movement it is Lee.

TEAMS

ENGLAND (probable): Andrew Strauss (captain), Joe Denly, Owais Shah, Paul Collingwood, Eoin Morgan, Matt Prior, Luke Wright, Stuart Broad, Graeme Swann, Ryan Sidebottom, James Anderson.

AUSTRALIA (probable): Shane Watson, Tim Paine, Ricky Ponting (captain), Michael Hussey, Callum Ferguson, Cameron White, James Hopes, Mitchell Johnson, Brett Lee, Nathan Hauritz, Peter Siddle.

Maria, Jelena on course



AFP, Tokyo

Maria Sharapova breezed past Iveta Benesova of the Czech Republic at the Pan Pacific Open on Thursday to keep on course for a potential final showdown against Jelena Jankovic.

The Russian former world number one, champion here in 2005 but unseeded this time around, shrugged off a service break down in each set before scoring a 6-4, 7-5 victory to advance.

In the semifinals on Friday, Sharapova will play either Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland or Magdalena Rybarikova of Slovakia, while Jankovic will meet the winner of the tie between China's Li Na and Victoria Azarenka of Belarus.

Sharapova, who lost the opening game after a double fault, hit an easy forehand winner at the net to make it 4-4 in the eighth before taking the following two games and the set.

The 22-year-old again struggled with her serve in the second set, relying instead on a number of sizzling winners from Benesova's second serve.

"I think that's really the goal, to be aggressive, not to be passive. The goal is really to stay aggressive no matter what the points are in the match, what the situation is," said Sharapova. "That's my game. That's how I always play. I'm a pretty aggressive player. I like to attack from the baseline, from serves and returns. That usually means that I'm going to make a little more errors."

For Sharapova it was her 13th consecutive singles win.

She claimed her first career WTA title at the 2003 Japan Open here and defended the title the following year.

"It's always wonderful to come back to a place where you had such great success and good memories, and just feel like I really get the crowd's support," said Sharapova.

"It's really warm here towards all the players. I love coming here, I love the country itself, I love Tokyo, so it's always a fun trip."

Seventh seed Serb Jankovic, another former world number one, powered her way through to a 6-4, 6-3 victory over Marion Bartoli, putting an end to her match-losing streak against the

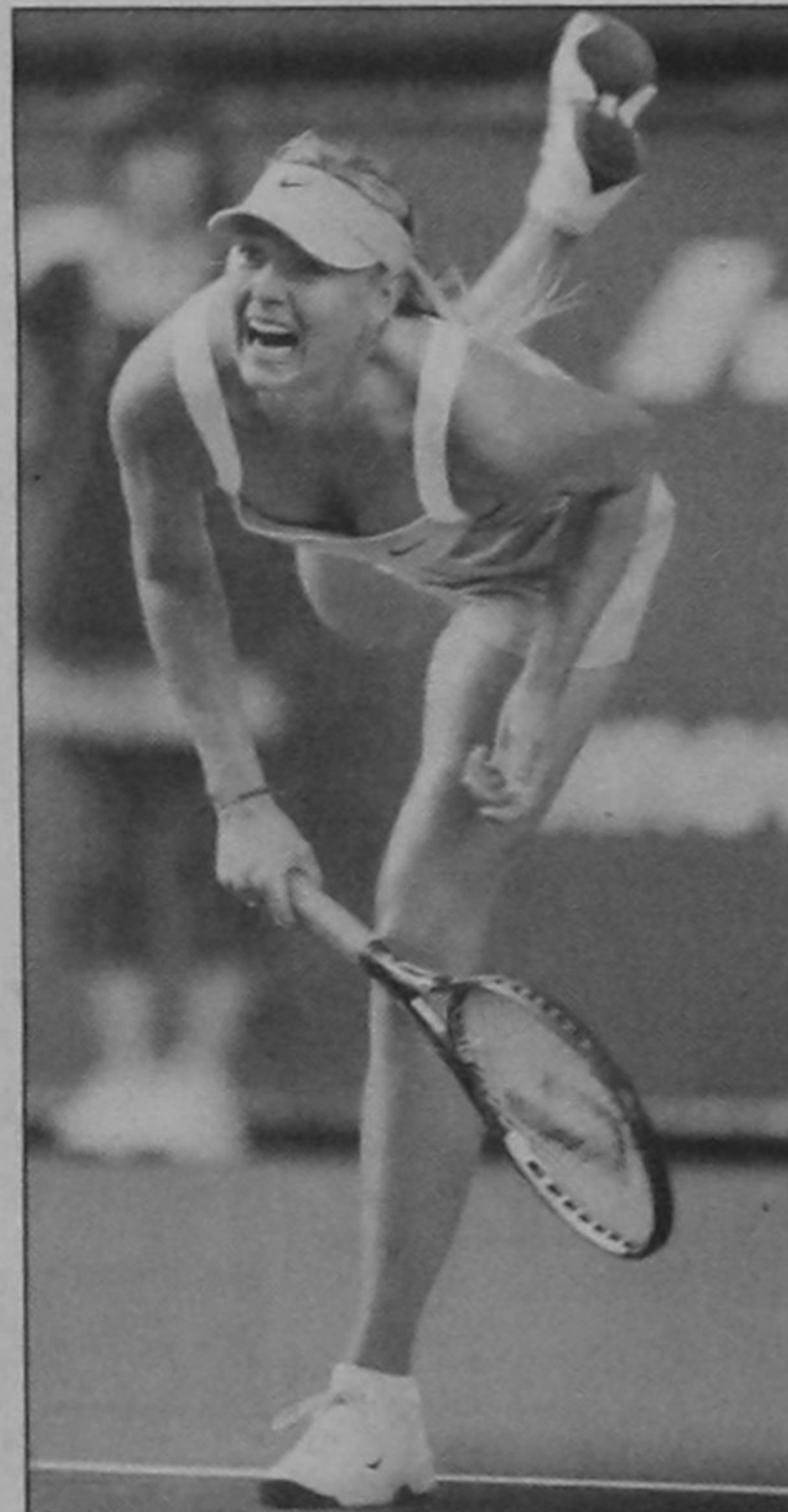


PHOTO: AFP

Maria Sharapova of Russia serves to Iveta Benesova of the Czech Republic during their quarterfinal match in the Pan Pacific Open in Tokyo yesterday.

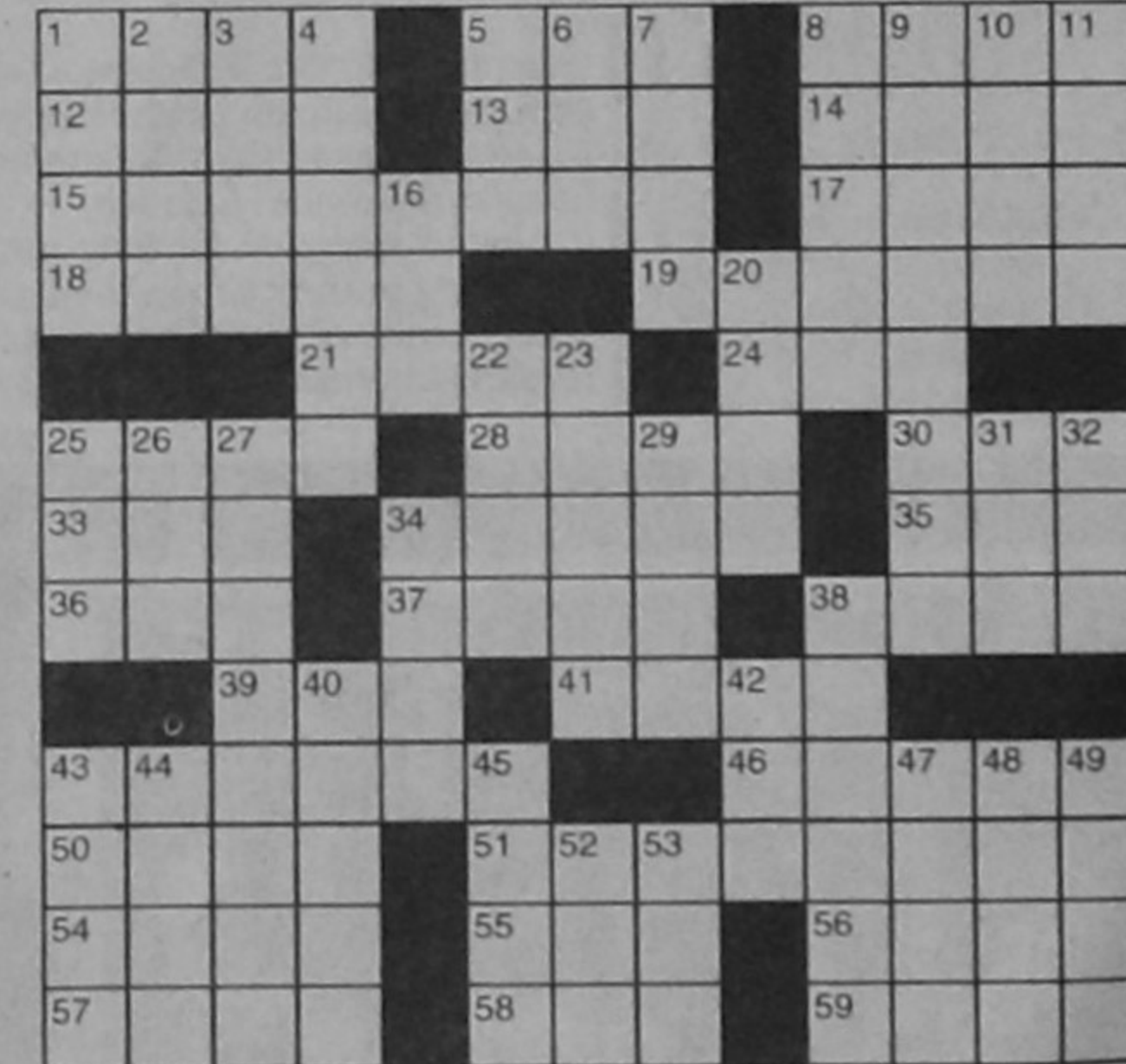
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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DOWN 1 Corner-stone info 2 Shake-speare's river 3 Firsties 4 Acknowl-edge 5 Scott Joplin's music 6 Ortiz of 7 Kite flyer's need 8 Coast 9 Shag et al. 10 Sleeping 11 Vacillate 16 Solidify 20 Keatsian works 22 Formerly 23 Contract details

Solution time: 21 mins.

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CRYPTOQUIP

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AXGSBKpz HP XQWXEU HU

H WSWJRHE VKPMJ XQXEGKNX

NDNUXB: DSZH AXHE.

Yesterday's Cryptquip: I EXPECT THAT WHEN ACTRESS HAWN ORDERS A BAGEL, SHE WANTS IT TO BE TOPPED WITH GOLDIE LOX.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: U equals T